



# FRS NEWS

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*FRS News* is a free & irregular publication aimed at the listeners of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave free radio station. It usual-

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome along to this *special 30th Anniversary FRS Newsletter* edition! The 'small' edition is being sent to all listeners who responded to one or more of our series of three *30th Anniversary broadcasts* which took place between October 2010 and February 2011. The full edition is obtainable for 5 euro. Following our 3rd and final Anniversary broadcast, it was time for a rest. In the mean time we have had an evening broadcast and we worked very hard to answer the loads of mails and letters. The *FRS 30th Anniversary QSL Series* has been produced and we are sure you will like them. June 19th saw a regular *FRS* broadcast. Regular but also special... The broadcast was carried out in the evening hours rather than on a Sunday morning/ afternoon. Enjoy this free bumper edition of *FRS News* focusing on our 30th Anniversary. It is a mine of information about the broadcasts, your letters &...much...much more! *All the best, 73s, Peter Verbruggen*

## FRS-Holland 30th Anniversary by Peter V.

Sunday August 31st 1980 the first official FRS-Holland broadcast took place on 6250 kHz. Who could ever imagine that 30 years later- in 2010- FRS would be celebrating its 30th Anniversary! Following an almost 12 month period of intensive preparations and three broadcasts, it's good to look back.

### What has been done to achieve this trilogy of 30 Years Free Radio Service Holland anniversary broadcasts?

Keeping in mind that we didn't celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, I felt this would be perhaps a *last chance* to do a big on air celebration spanning 30 years of FRSH. 30 years of SW Free Radio....

It was March 2010, just over a year ago, that I started preparations for the FRS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At that moment there was no clear concept for the festive broadcast apart from some of the ingredients. One important item would be an *invitation to radio friends and listeners to participate*. During the February 28<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 broadcasts FRS heavily promoted the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary without going into details. A first promo spot was produced and not only aired over FRS' txs but

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Next edition # 37 will be out late 2011.

also via a few colleague radio stations on SW. A 2<sup>nd</sup> important and very time-consuming job was the start of digitalising the huge FRS programme cassette archive. For it was obvious we would be using numerous recordings from the past within the Anniversary broadcast. And so we began to convert a huge number of old, sometimes dusty cassettes into digital MP3 files. It's a good moment to mention that without the indispensable help of *Jan van Dijk* this job would be doomed to failure. Realise that each and every cassette has to be converted in real time and to be archived on the computer's HD drive. Choices had to be made for it was impossible to digitalise the complete archives. Following the process of digitalising every programme was uploaded on Jan van Dijk's server. His job was to produce a compilation from each digital show. Most of those compilations last between 3 and 6 minutes. Finishing his job, Jan put the compilations back on the server and I was able to download the files. That implies that we now have both complete shows and compilations in MP3 format. In this way we have secured a great number of valuable analogue archive sound recordings in digital form. Most of the 90s & the complete 2000s are now available in MP3 format. From the 1980s we have only completed a relatively small part: several 1980s compilation recordings were already available from our 10<sup>th</sup> Years Documentary 1980-1990 as well as on MiniDisc from past broadcasts. In the mean time we are making progress and continue with the digitalising job in the upcoming months mainly focussing on the very first 10 years of the FRSH history, the 1980s. A third and most important part of the Anniversary broadcast would be the *FRS Story*. The first 10 years were already covered in detail in the '*10 Years in the Life of FRS-Holland*' documentary, written and produced in 1990 by Joop ter Zee and I. So the thing was to put the period 1990- 2010 on paper. An enormous challenge! In the 2010 Summer I started with this job making primarily use of old logbooks plus a great pile of *FRS Goes DX*, *FRS News* and *FRS Newsletter*

*editions*. Gradually the different ingredients of the broadcast made up a whole, the concept got its definitive form. Late August I set up a meeting with colleague FRS presenter Jan van Dijk. We discussed a number of issues and finally agreed about the *final Anniversary broadcast concept*. It was decided that it would be impossible to feature everything within one broadcast. Three 6 hour broadcasts would justify all the preparations and hard work enabling us to have enough time to cover all important aspects of the past 30 years. Originally dates were set for October, November & December 2010. And work continued to be ready for the first broadcasting date being October 31<sup>st</sup>. In the mean time listeners and former presenters were approached to take part in the festive programmes. The definitive concept consisted of:

- The FRS Story;
- Programme extracts from the past;
- Contributions from both former presenters & listeners;
- Listener's competitions;
- Fact Files (blocks of information focussing on one particular aspect of the FRS History);
- Music from the FRS era;
- A specially produced jingle package.

Dozens of *liners* were produced, recorded by three different persons including Nolan, Owen and former FRS jock Johnny Best. For the first time in our history a *German language set* of jingles was to be produced. The complete concept was put on paper for the FRS presenters and all texts & audio extracts etc. had to be sorted out. Not forgetting producing a series of three different Anniversary QSLs representing the three decades in which FRS has been active. Without going into further detail a job of literally hundreds of hours....all for the love of radio.

free radio service  
holland short wave

### The 1st Anniversary Broadcast: Sun October 31st 2010 covering the period 1980– 1987

Sunday October 31st marked the start of the biggest ever series of FRS-Holland broadcast in 30 years SW history. An enormous challenge! In this first broadcast we would be covering the first 7 years of the FRS Story. A period in which a lot happened. It was disappointing that Paul Graham could not join our team of presenters due to serious private reasons. In the end Paul had to cancel all activities for the complete series of broadcasts.

**Free Radio Service Holland:**  
"A Balance between Music & Information joined to one Format.  
The FRS Concept sounds different,

UTC	CET	PROGRAMME
08:52*	09:52	Opening: Theme Tune & Station IDs
09:02	10:02	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 1- <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> [1980+1981]
11:00	12:00	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 2- <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> [1982+1983 (June)]
12:00	13:00	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 3- <i>Jan van Dijk</i> [July 1983 + 1984]
13:30	14:30	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 4- <i>Dave Scott</i> [1985+1986+1987]
15:00	16:00	Close Down

Programmes were aired on 5800//7600 kHz (08:52–15:00 UTC) and to secure solid reception in Central Europe 6005 kHz was added (09-11 & 12-16 UTC). This 1 kW outlet was leased from the licensed Radio 700 in Germany. As an 'extra' at 09 & 10 UTC a special promo was aired on 6265 (loop tape). Each hour would start with a specially recorded Top of the Hour jingle and contain an FRS Fact File, *at the bottom of the hour* a FRS Listener's Competition promo, (a) contribution(s) from a former FRS presenter and from FRS listeners, archive extracts (sound bytes), music from that era and last but not least: the **FRS Story**. Propagation that day was fair to good but between 13:00-15:00 UTC 6005 was badly affected by a powerful French DRM station on 6015 kHz spluttering all over the band up to 40 kHz! A shame...In the evening hours the complete broadcast was **streamed** between 14:52- 21:00 UTC <<http://nednl.net:8000/frsh.m3u>>. As far as response is concerned we were satisfied although we expected

**Do you have an E-mail address? Make sure forwarding it ! You will be assured of automatically receiving important updates/ the latest news on the Free Radio Service Holland.**

a bit more. No time to sit and relax as just 4 weeks after the first, the second broadcast would take place. As a result of the DRM QRM it was agreed that Jan van Dijk's 90 min. October 31st show would be repeated Sunday November 21st 09-11 UTC on 6005.

### The 2nd Anniversary Broadcast: Sun November 28th 2010 covering the period 1987– 1997

UTC	CET	PROGRAMME
08:52	09:52	Opening: Theme Tune & Station IDs
09:02	10:02	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 5- <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> [1988+1989+1990+1991]
12:00	13:00	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 6- <i>Jan van Dijk</i> [1992 + 1993]
13:00	14:00	30 Years of FRS-Holland part 7- <i>Dave Scott</i> [1994 + 1995+ 1996+1997]
15:00	16:00	Close Down

As in October programmes were aired on 5800//7600 kHz (08:52–15:00 UTC). In addition the 1 kW Radio 700 outlet was hired with a slightly different schedule. To avoid the nasty 6015 kHz QRM Radio 700 offered 6005 kHz between 9–11 UTC and 5980 between 11–15 UTC. A very nice gesture indeed! The November programme formula was identical to the one we used in October. On November 28th propagation was disappointing. The end of the year is usually ruled by very good conditions but that was not the case in 2010. In the evening hours the complete broadcast was streamed in perfect audio quality. The disappointing propagation on the 28th made us decide to repeat the full broadcast on Sunday December 12th 07:52–14:00 UTC, this time on 6400 only. Response for the 2nd Anniversary broadcast was—much to our disappointment—very poor. The 3rd broadcast would take place in December and a lot of work had to be done in a very short period. Keeping the November disappointment in my mind, it simply was too much. I had no enthusiasm and decided to move that broadcast to January. In the end it would become February 27th when at long last the final and 3rd FRS Anniversary broadcast would take place.

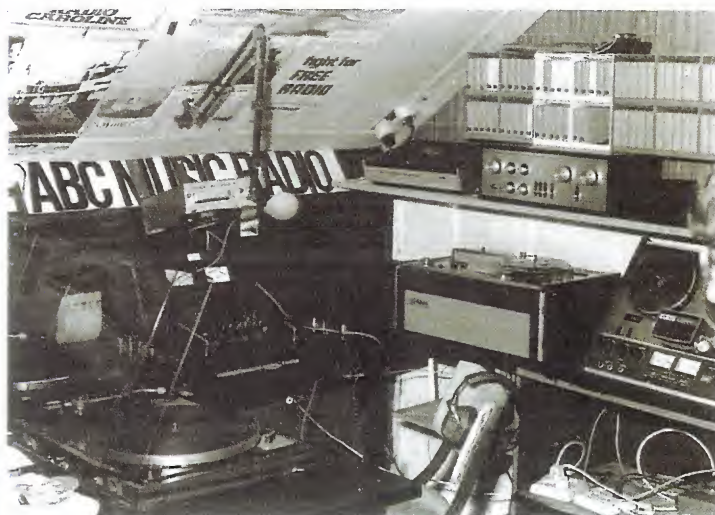
### The 3rd Anniversary Broadcast: Sun February 27th 2011 covering the period 1998–2010

07:52	08:52	<b>Opening: Theme Tune &amp; Station IDs</b>
08:02	09:02	<b>30 Years of FRS-Holland part 8-</b> <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> [1998+199+2000]
10:00	11:00	<b>30 Years of FRS-Holland part 9-</b> <i>Jan van Dijk</i> [2001+2002+2003]
11:00	12:00	<b>30 Years of FRS-Holland part 10-</b> <i>Dave Scott</i> [2004....2010]
13:00	14:00	<b>30 Years of FRS-Holland-</b> <b>The final hour</b> <i>Peter Verbruggen</i>
14:00	15:00	<b>Close Down</b>

On this sunny Sunday we used a number of frequencies: the start was one hour earlier than in October/November; the complete broadcast was carried out on 7600//5800 (07:52–14:00 UTC). The 08:00–14:00 JTC slot was also on 6085 kHz via Radio 700. The final hour by PV saw no FRS Story (that had already been completed by Dave Scott) but instead time for some reflection and a few items which deserved attention. That final February Sunday was quite a strange day. Conditions appeared to be very unreliable/ weird with long skip (in February!!). 6085 wasn't received for quite a while in a large area (long skip) whereas 7600 was strong in Scandinavia and parts of Germany (for instance in Berlin) but also in the Czech Republic. In the late morning 6085 became audible in the areas where it wasn't heard earlier that morning. Much to my surprise a great number of mails were received during the broadcast. Remarkable was the fact that FRS could be clearly identified for almost 3 hours on a Canadian web receiver. Of course encouraging! Reports were received from Florida, New Zealand and India! Two weeks later I picked up a nice pile of letters from POBox 2702. Response in February really made up for that in November. Despite the good response it was decided to repeat the February broadcast on Sunday March 6th 2011 once again kicking off an early 07:52 UTC.

That broadcast was (perhaps surprisingly) carried on 6220 kHz/48 mb frequency, the 07:52–10:00 UTC slot was aired on 6260 kHz providing excellent all over Western Europe. All in all the 3rd FRS Anthology broadcast was very successful.

**Webstream:** also in February and March FRSH was streamed on the internet. February 27th there were a few minor technical problems but nevertheless the complete broadcast was streamed in the evening hours ■



FRS-Holland's first studio housed at Peter Verbruggen's attic (1980–1984)



Present FRS-Holland studio.

### FRS-Holland on YouTube:

- <http://youtu.be/gn113BhxxI> (June 19th 2011 7685 kHz)
- <http://youtu.be/9n-U18ERJZM> (June 19th 2011 7685 kHz)
- <http://youtu.be/R3UMDBImJ9M> (Feb.28th 2010 7600)
- <http://youtu.be/nxL4Gc-JYew> (Dec.28th 2008 6400 pt 1)
- [http://youtu.be/i\\_kNliWITys](http://youtu.be/i_kNliWITys) (Dec. 28th 2008 6400 pt2)

# Reflections by Peter V.

Sharing a number of reflections on different subjects with you. Things which came to my mind when preparing the final hour of the FRS 30th Anniversary broadcast back in February 2011....

► FRS-Holland started in the 1980 Summer at a time no Offshore Radio station was active. Caroline's ship *Mi Amigo* had sunk earlier that year in March and for many radio enthusiasts and DXers short wave was an ideal mean of listening to International radio stations spreading the spirit of Free Radio & playing pop music and informing the listener about the radio scene.

► Lots of quality radio stations were active in that period and response was often overwhelming. As frequently mentioned it is not the *quantity* of stations but the *quality* that counts...that certainly also goes for the 1980s. Only very few stations have survived ever since. EMR, BRI, FRS-Holland... Whereas many new stations appeared on the SW bands, a great number of once loyal listeners have disappeared. No doubt there are several reasons for this sad loss of serious listeners, for me it's obvious that one reason is being disappointed about the lack of programming stations. Stations with a format. They are hardly to be found nowadays within SW Free Radio land. Mind you: I respect every station. Each one has the right and freedom to make its own choices in which way he wants to express his radio hobby. The fact remains there is a misbalance between stations with a format and those without. And that is sad for those listeners interested in format stations. One thing that hasn't changed in all those decades of SW free radio is the *freedom...freedom on the airwaves to do what you wanna do*. And that's a great thing!

► With the lack of programming stations nowadays, FRS tries to supply a need. Through the years many listeners have affirmed and supported this idea by telling us they very much like to hear the mix of programmes containing quality pop music and radio based information. Already in the 80s we introduced that slogan **[A Balance between Music & Information....]** This has been going on for a long time. With ups and down. And sometimes hunted by authorities. FRS was involved in 4 raids although the station itself was only raided once. But what goes for us, goes for all FR stations...*you are born to run!*

► FRS is a *programming station* and underlining our philosophy that we are here for you, the listener. What some listeners tend to forget is that radio is *two-way traffic* and we therefore welcome any feedback. This is vital to us. Even knowing that we have scaled down our expectations when it comes to response figures, feedback remains very important. It is the only way you as a listener can show your respect and give us a reward for producing radio programmes! We know there are enough listeners out there but realising that some do not or never respond but only tune our way, does not help in any way for the sake of two way traffic.

► When reflecting on 30 years of FRS-Holland, a lot of things come to my mind. The first years when pxs were produced in my first studio housed on the attic at my mother's house. Those get togethers with Joop, Gerd, Bert, Frankie F. and Bobby Speed were great moments. The first tests and programmes will never be forgotten. Another item is what has become of a number of listeners who used to regularly

respond to our broadcasts in the 80s and don't seem to care anymore? Or are they nowadays anonymous listeners? I could mention so many names of old friends...Where are they? What has become of them?

► Another topic: between August 1980 and January 1983 our broadcasting location was a small piece of privately owned wood. Just ok to hang up two aerials, hidden for unwanted visitors and far enough from the built-up area to attract much attention or to interfere with electronic equipment. Simply an ideal spot to broadcast from....also a place where you sometimes could dream away in between two cassette changes. *We used to call it the magic forest...*

► Perhaps the 30th Anniversary was a good moment taking stock of the past 30 years. *What was in it for us and for you as a listener?* Answering the latter question: I guess for a lot of listeners we have provided Sunday entertainment. Judging the thousands of letters, I dare to say that is a fair judgement. We provided listening pleasure and entertained the European audience with music and information. We as a station have certainly enjoyed producing all those programmes and loved the music we played on air. Communicating with you over the airwaves but also via letters and mails was a pleasure and privilege. In those 30 Years of FRS-Holland we have made many, many friends. In many cases we haven't seen the faces behind the persons but the letters and reports tell their very own story. We are very thankful! No doubt it was an exiting period in which a lot changed. The world, listening habits and also people...some listeners mentioned that FRSH has been a part of half of their life! That is something.. 30 Years of FRS-Holland: it was an extraordinary life.....

► This is also a good opportunity to say *thank you* to a great number of persons...

Thanks to all *listeners* who supported us in these 30 years. Your reports & letters were our reward. Some of the listeners from the first moment back in August 1980 are still tuning our way and writing in. Fantastic! Without all those letters we would not have made it all those years. What kept us going were your enthusiastic & encouraging letters.

Thanks to each and everyone who *participated in these trilogy of Anniversary broadcasts*. The listeners of course but also the former presenters. The majority kindly send in their personal memories and I was pleasantly surprised by some of them.

Thanks to the ones who *contributed in the production of these broadcasts*. Nolan, Owen and JB for their excellent production of voice-overs; Brian for his job as our main tx engineer; Christian in Germany, Ronald in the Netherlands. And last but not least Paul Graham and a few of his mates for helping out in producing Fact Files. My two colleague presenters Dave Scott and Jan van Dijk who did a giant and excellent job in producing their programmes. It certainly took a lot of time and efforts. Thank you so much. Jan van Dijk did a great job in compiling countless digitalised programmes and in advising and assisting me.

Following Joop ter Zee's death in June 2000, there were two persons who greatly supported me in keeping FRS-Holland alive. Without the help of Mark Jones FRSH would not have



'FRS-Holland 30 Years on SW' QSL Series: The 80s (QSL #1)

survived these 30 years. And when Mark stopped presenting shows, Jan van Dijk not only took over as a presenter but also greatly contributed in advising me I may not forget to thank the numerous persons behind the relays we have had. Their work was very important. Last but not least the persons who were directly involved. All the presenters—*past and present*—and our engineer Bobby Speed.

► Remembering a few people who were once with us and played a role in FRS' life and have now passed away. My radio pal **Joop ter Zee** spent almost 20 years on the station. A great FRS presenter and radio man in heart and soul. Joop passed away June 2000. So far we never talked about yet another presenter who passed away and was part of the FRS family: **Chris** was our first German presenter hosting the German Show right from the beginning in August 1980 till January 1982. After a two month silence he presented the Int. Listeners' Letter Show between April 1982 and March 1984. Chris unexpectedly passed away in 2005. **Manfred Bredow** used to be a very loyal FRS listener in the period 1980- 2001 in which we received no less than 75 letters! He sadly died in July 2001. And November 1995 we were shocked by the death of colleague OP Norman Nelson who ran the famous UK station RECC. We also remember the ones we are not aware of that they passed away. May all rest in peace!!

### Epilogue

The FRS-Holland's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trilogy. 18 hours of *music, memories, flashbacks, contributions, Fact Files* and more...It was the best we could do to commemorate those 3 decades we have been on air. I am the only person from the original crew who has survived on FRS but I am more than happy to have Dave Scott, Paul Graham & Jan van Dijk with me on the station. The future of FRS? Realise that without any respect & support from listeners any future is far from certain ■

## FRS Sales Productions

Order our booklet with hundreds of hours of recordings from **Sea to Satellite**. Send 3 Euro / 4 US dollar to the Herten maildrop. FRS Sales Productions offers SW Free Radio, Off-shore Radio, satellite, Documentaries, Jingles, Landbased pirate radio, video but also legal stations from all over the world.

*In the months prior to the Anniversary Broadcasts, listeners were invited to send us their personal memories of 30 Years of FRS-Holland. Either written or spoken/recorded as an mp3 file. It would go too far to include all contributions. And it is simply too time-consuming to transfer the spoken audio files into text files. Therefore some written excerpts from a number of contributors. One more time we'd like to thank all contributors for their personal contributions.*

### Stefan Printz- Sweden

Dear Peter & FRS crew, wow! Congratulations from an old fan of Free Radio...Stefan Printz. Congrats on your 30th birthday! What an achievement that you're still around after all those years. I still remember the first time I heard your sound on shortwave in August 1984. I was just 15 years of age and I was impressed by your sound and many of the other stations that were around at that time. Especially I remember the music of Jean Michel Jarre's *Oxygen* and the always exciting voice by Peter. Once again all the best and a prosperous future for FRS Holland! Sunny greetings from Mallorca.

### Thomas Kircher/ Germany

Hi FRSH-Team, Erstmal ein gääanz dickes Lob an Euer Team und den FRSH ! In den 80iger Jahren war ich faszinierter Kurzwellen-DXer. Speziell die FR Stationen hatten es mir angetan. Leider gibt es heutzutage kaum hörenswerthes auf der Kurzwelle. Eine ganz grosse Ausnahme ist der FRSH.

### Thorsten Brandenburg, Munich/ Germany

Hallo Peter! I don't want forget about your 30th birthday! It was a great time to follow you all through the years from 1981 (when I received the FRSH for the very first time!) until today. I remember all the great programme hours with you and all the others (especially Joop ter Zee, who died much too early!). I hope there will be many more years with the FRSH and the professional programmes! I hope also, there will be the possibility for me to listen to your programme this month! Have a good time, stay healthy and keep on FFR!

### Oskar Schmitt/ Germany

Dear Friends, May I express my gratitude to all of the staff of FRSH for 30 years SW radio. Happy Birthday! Indeed I can hardly find words to tell you how I feel about FRS. Warm & cold...May 19th 1991 I heard FRS for the first time and in the mean time I have collected several QSLs. While I am writing these words I have all QSLs in front of me together with the FRS Newsletter edition 27 from September 2000. In Memory of Joop ter Zee. I have not forgotten him. I like your station very much. The Free Radio Service Holland is *my station* and one of the best free radio services I know. Let me once again say Happy, happy Birthday.

### Klaus Fuehrlich , Radebeul/ Germany

You ask for a story of myself by listening FRS. I remember that FRSH was simultaneously broadcasting on two different frequencies and so I used two radios. In Summer I even listened while I had my recreation in a swimming pool. I used the nearby bushes to install my long wire antenna leaving some fellow swimmers in a state of confusion and amazement. On my first QSL Peter V. wrote: "*Keep on writing Klaus*" and that's what I have done ever since. I made a look in my "DXarchiv" and I found a handwritten letter from you dated Sept. 30th 1980. It was a contact with the FRS Holland, which I can now say : 30 years ago. . All the best. Peter and good luck for the next years of FRSH. best 73s.

**Mark Brown**

Hi Peter, hi everybody in Free radio and FRS Holland lovers, this is Mark Brown of former German based Radio Titanic International wishing the one and only Peter Verbruggen and his crew a HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR 30th birthday and a lot of success for your forthcoming activities. PV, since the beginning your station has always been one of my favorite stations on the Free Radio bands. I hope you will stay on the air as long as possible and you may provide Free Radio at it's best to your audience in the future! Maybe your motto will be "we love to entertain you" here at FRSH! Maybe you may play Robbie Williams for me: Let me entertain you! Thanks! FFFR, Mark (of former German based Radio Titanic International).

**Claess Olsson/ Sweden**

HI FRSH, and congrats to your 30 years on the air! Looking through my QSL's, I can see my first contact with your station and the first time I heard you, I believe, is July 20, 1986 and that is nearly as long as you have been on the air. During the years that has passed by, I have written a report now and then and always received a kind answer and a lot a FR\_news. I'm the editor of a column for news in a Swedish Magazine, (the only) EterAktuellt for DX\_ers here in Sweden so all news I receive is good news for me. My problem now is, and has been for the latest 20 years or so that I only can listen in the summertime, out at my summerhouse. Here in my flat in the city, there is nowadays too much interference from all electronic equipments in my in my neighbours flats. Hope your first celebration transmission is at the first part of October since I'm leaving for Florida on Oct 14. I lives there for 3 month every year, and I have tried to hear you from there, but no luck so far. But I promise, I will give it another serious try this winter and I also promise that I would let you know if I hear you. Please say "Hello" to all my DX\_ing friends in Sweden and all over Europe and good luck with your station during the next 30 years. Claes Olsson/ Sweden.

**Joachim Trosch/ Germany**

Dear Peter, greetings from Germany. First of all THANK YOU for reminding me to make a contribution to FRSH's 30th anniversary show. What were my "special moments" with FRSH? I think the more I think about this, the answer is in the early days and years and my admiration for the continuity of FRSH in the free radio scene on short wave. I am now 54 and with FRSH now completing 30 years, it is a simple calculation that FRSH existed for more than half of my life span! The '70s, with offshore radio in Holland and such short wave radio pioneers as 'World Music Radio', 'ABC Europe' or 'Radio Gemini', only to mention a few off my head, were a fascinating time as were the '80s when FRSH could be heard regularly and when I did not miss any Sunday to tune in to the 48 meter band which in those days was the main source to receive landbased free radio. In those days it have me enormous pleasure to write reception reports, including to FRSH. I honestly do not remember when I received my first ever QSL Card from FRSH but what I certainly remember is the pleasure I had not only writing reception reports but really enjoying the high standard of the programmes which right from the start of FRSH had a good balance between information for radio enthusiasts and quality music. I remember that in those days in the '80s, 'FRS goes DX' challenged me to try to receive many of the stations which were mentioned. Oh yes, now that I think about it, one "special moment" with FRSH comes to my mind though it was a sad one for all of us: the time when Joop ter Zee so suddenly passed away and left behind me and

thousands of other sad listeners in the FRSH audience. The high quality show which was made in memory of Joop ter Zee comes to my mind as I remember him. 30 years is a long time !! Joachim

**Nicholas Sharpe, Laleham/ UK**

My interest in short wave communications goes all the way back to December 1976 when I bought my first short wave communications receiver being a Yaesu FRG\_7 and it wasn't long after I got the hang of it that I came across the Sunday morning pirates such as the famous European Music Radio on the good old 6235 kHz network. A couple of years later the network was expanding further with another network forming on the forty one meter band. I recall Barry Stephens as he was then on European Music Radio announcing that a new Dutch station would soon be testing on the 48 meter band and would be a sister station to his. I am now looking at my vast collection of QSL Cards beautifully contained within many first day cover albums. My first ever attempt to hear the FRS\_Holland test is going back to 27th July 1980 when I heard the old ten watt rig on 6250 kHz between 09:15 and 09:45 GMT with a Sio rating of 444. I think the station used the old PO Box 41, NL\_7700AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands at the time or maybe it was Kent P l a c e , Norwell, Newark, UK but I was very excited t o

receive the reply as I had already been to The Netherlands back in November 1978 to attend the 50th anniversary of the Happy Station show on Radio Nederland as it was then in Hilversum. Going back to FRS Holland at that time I recall Barry on EMR stating that the operator Peter was delighted with the response and an exchange programme was introduced with a Dutch service with Peter on EMR and Barry Stephens show on FRS Holland. My next QSL card from the station is dated 23rd November 1980 on 6250 kHz between 11:15 and 11:45 GMT, I presume that this was another test for the station before regular programming began in 1981. Sadly at this time I recall that both EMR was raided and some months later FRS Holland suffered the same fate. Thankfully FRS Holland had more station members and determination than EMR and was able to return, first from its own transmitter and then later was able to negotiate relay facilities with the Belgium station Radio Delmare and later on the Dutch station Radio Oran Utan until sadly both stations were raided. It is not my intention to give you a detailed history of the station as I am sure that Peter will be doing this but rather to give you my memories of the station as a contribution.

**Achim Brückner/ Detmold-Germany**

I first came across FRSH somewhere in 1988 and remember the long and well edited programmes. Remember well the 10 years anniversary in 1990 which gave a review of 10 years FRSH with special productions of old tapes. Enjoyed all these DJs with the nice jingles and real programmes not only playing music on and on. Music on and on became more usual in the years 2000 beyond in pirate radio world. Thanks for making it possible for me taking part in your 30 years of programmes.

**Tristan Nolle, London/ UK**

The CD "10 Years in the life of the FRSH" was a very good story, both interesting & informative. I think FRS has the best format with that mix of radio news and music. For me, only music on SW is just not enough. Txs a lot and till we meet again, goodbye, Tristan.

**Listeners' Memories**

**Thomas Drescher, Rösrath/ Germany**

Thanks a lot for your emails reminding me to contribute on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of FRSH. Well, doing so is a bit difficult to me, for I am not the kind of person that likes making speeches, writing articles, doing recordings or so. But anyway, FRSH surely is the SW-station that accompanied me through a long period in my life and my professional career. For on October 1, 1980 I started working at the department of administration at WDR Cologne. I took over the position of Head of Administration at the cable pilot project in Dortmund in autumn 1984, got married in 1987, moved back to Cologne the same year- since the project had come to an end- ,took over the department for licence fees, and finally got appointed to the Data Protection Commissioner of WDR Cologne. Now I am about to retire in June 2012. And during the whole period I was accompanied by FRSH, at times on a regular basis, then there were longer or shorter breaks, but once in a time you could always get in touch with the station again. I remember lots of good music, programmes in different languages, and especially in-depth information on DXing particularly about the "pirate"-scene. Times have changed by now, and nowadays as a DXer you do not have to wait for FRS Goes DX to clear up a station you could not identify. Today this kind of info is available via internet at once. But what you cannot get there is the in-depth and background information. Here FRSH still plays a tremendous role, and I won't miss it in the future. Programmes are always great from the people at FRSH I can really regard as friends, even though SW-propagation is at many times affected by difficulties. So what I want to say is thank you so much for accompanying me through a long, long time, all the best to all of you for the future, and many happy returns. And I'll watch out for you for the next ??? years! Sincerely Yours, Thomas Drescher, Rösrath, Germany ■

## FRS Presenters 1980–2010



SUNDAY-ENTERTAINMENT ON SW  
"JUST A BIT DIFFERENT....."

*Between FRS-Holland's start in August 1980 and 2010, some 20 presenters have been active on the station. The majority hosted the German Service..... No wonder knowing that most FRS listeners are German. The first German presenter was Chris who presented the German Show between August 1980 and January 1982. After a two month silence he presented the International Listeners' Letters Show between April 1982 and March 1984. George Strong joined in*

March 1982 but left in July of that year. His successor was Michael who presented the popular German Show between Aug. 1982 and Dec. 1983. One of the most popular German FRS presenters was Danny Kay who took over from Michael in Dec. 1983. Danny presented his final FRS show in Dec. 1989. Just four months later a new deejay took over: Johnny Best, better known as 'JB'. In Dec. 1990, a couple of months after the 10th birthday celebrations, Stefan Kramer got involved and for a while he & Johnny took turns until Johnny left in the Spring of 1992. Stefan Kramer stayed until August 1997. For almost a year FRS was without a German presenter. In June 1998 Mark Jones joined and presented his alternative music show Off Beat until May 2005. It would be another year and a half before a new German presenter joined the FRS team: In Dec. 2006 Jan van Dijk became the 7th German presenter in FRS' history. As we speak, Jan is still presenting the FRS German Show. From Dec. 2007 Jan has company from a second German presenter named Mike Anderson, he left FRS December 2009. Barry Stephens did the English Service & FRS Golden Show right from the beginning until July 1985.

Mark Stafford & Tony Mitchell presented their FRS Shows between Dec. 1987 and October 1996. American Al Muick participated in the DX programme in 1981. Many years later he joined the Voice of Peace crew as an engineer. Fred van Es was for a 3 year period the main man in the Musical Express. Fred started in August 1980 and his successor Bert van Leer continued that show between February 1984 and May 1987. Another Dutchman who was on FRS right from the beginning was Frankie Fanatic. Remember his Album Show which was last heard in April 1981. Gerd was a regular co-presenter in the ILLS between 1985 and May 1991. And perhaps almost forgotten is Steven Reath who did five stints in 2001 starting in March of that year and finishing in December. He presented the FRS Golden Show. Dutch presenter Frank Carson did a total of 4 shows in 2003 & 2004. He started in Nov. 2003 and a year later in November 2004 his FRS career ended. September 2002 saw the debut show of Paul Graham. He has been doing irregular editions of the FRS Golden Shows for the last 8 years and still is involved. Nov. 15th 2009 saw Dave Scott's debut on FRSH. Dave is a SW veteran who ran the successful UK based SW pirate Radio Apollo in the mid 80s. Dave continues on FRS, presenting Radio Waves ■

## FRS NEWS- A POTTED HISTORY

*This small newsletter was first published under the name FRS Newsletter in January 1993. After 14 editions, the name was changed to FRS News. That was in 1997. The FRS Newsletter was continued for subscribers only and its content changed from covering FRS-Holland only to emphasizing on Free Radio News in general. Where the FRS Newsletter ended, FRS News continued informing the listening audience with news from the Free Radio Service Holland. In the mean time the FRS Newsletter has been discontinued. After 7 years, the final edition # 39/40 was published December 2003. What is left is FRS News which will certainly continue as for us it is an important means of communication between FRS-Holland and you, the listener! Talking of communication or better: improving it...we regularly try to introduce fresh columns. Every new edition, we'll publish a collection of the letters/ e-mails we received via our Herten "2702" maildrop or <frs@frsholland.nl>/ <frs.holland@frsholland.nl>. We feel that's a good idea. Send us your opinion and ideas. So far response has been very encouraging. So: thank you to all of you who sent in (positive) comments. In addition in each issue we will go back in time with a flashback to a particular month/year including one of our broadcasts, SW news etc. This item is also included in future editions of FRS Magazine presented by Peter Verbruggen. Any ideas which might benefit FRS News are more than welcome!*

**FRS-Holland, not just a station, it's a tradition !**

## MAILBOX 2702

By Peter Verbruggen/ FRS Listeners

First of all thanks to all listeners who responded to our October, November 2010 and February 2011 30th Anniversary broadcasts. In this Mailbox 2702 edition we feature excerpts of the mails/ letters we received.

**For the first letter we have to travel to North Yorks in the UK.** "Hi Peter, brilliant programming today! Great signals on all three frequencies. I think that 7600 kHz is probably the best at the moment and the best audio. I noticed the carrier at 0850 and programmes started right on time. 6005 is seconds ahead, but nothing really noticeable. I will listen all day!" **Ian Biggar/ October 31st 2010.**

**Daniel Kähler** from Kiel/ Germany writes: "Hi, just would like to tell you that I can listen to your special broadcast on 6005 kHz here in Kiel, Germany, with SINPO 45444 using my Sangean ATS-909 & self-made delta-loop. Actually, this is the first time I listen to FRSH! But it's never too late, is it? :) Quite interesting to hear more about the history of your station. I have heard of FRSH in the past sometimes but never knew more about this station. So keep on transmitting on shortwave so that I can tune into your broadcasts again soon! :) Best regards, Daniel."

**From Kiel to an unknown location in the Netherlands...** "Hi boys, first of all congratulations with 30 years FRS-Holland. A milestone! Right now I hear two sorts of music. A technical mistake or is there another station on top of you? Good luck. **Ramon Pallarés.**" **Dear Ramon, it was indeed a human (technical) mistake. The Radio 700 FM signal was mixed up with our SW output.**

**Letters/ reports from Portugal are quite exceptional. It was a nice surprise to receive a mail (October 31st) from José Pedro Turner, Gondomar in Portugal.** "Hello! I've been listening to your programme, since 1340 UTC, on 7600 kHz and enjoyed every minute of it. It brings me fond memories of days gone by! Writing just to greet you for your Anniversary and wish for, at least, another 30 years of good radio!!! Greetings from a windy and rainy Gondomar, Portugal." **Thank you very much José!**

**Gerwin Schütte** from Berlin in Germany is one of FRS' most loyal listeners. He's one of the former GDR listeners already tuning our way in 1980. And 30 years later he's still a keen FRS listener..."Hallo Peter, meinen herzlichen Glückwunsch zum 30. Stationsgeburtstag von FRS-Holland. Heute konnte ich die ersten 2 Stunden mit schwachem aber gut verständlichem Signal auf der 6005 KHz via Radio 700 hören. Ist schön, mal wieder diese alten Mitschnitte zu hören. Ab 12.00 UTC war das Signal nur noch sehr schwach und mit starkem Fading auf der 6005 KHz zu empfangen. Deshalb werde ich mir diesen Teil über's Internet anhören. Ich freue mich schon auf die nächsten Folgen im November/Dezember. Für die nächsten 30 Jahre wünsche ich Dir und der restlichen Crew viel Erfolg. Na dann, bis zum nächsten mal." **Dear Gerwin, it's amazing and at the same time fantastic you are still listening to our SW programmes. Thanks very much for your great support!!**

**We stay in Germany. Joachim Trosch** from Hemsbach is another long-time listener. "Dear Peter, greetings from Germany on this very special Sunday in the long history of FRSH to you in Holland. I am just listening to the live stream - the greetings from Barry Stephens from the UK were just on - and very much enjoying it and just decided to drop you a line from my home e-mail address. Thanks for informing about today's broadcasts and live stream. I tried 6005 kHz in the 49 MB and only had five minutes of reception: Between 13:40h and 13:45h when a song by ABC was played - the SINPO was 14211. After that time there were incredible local electrical disturbances which unfortunately made it impossible to continue to listen. I could not try 5800 and 7600 as my big short wave receiver does not function and the GRUNDIG YB 208 I use at present does not have continuous band coverage. All for right now, just wanted to thank you and the FRS team for all their efforts related to today's show which I am now enjoying to listen on the internet. Best '73s, Joachim." **Joachim, I can only repeat what I just said to Gerwin. Thanks very much for your great support!!**

**In the early 80s we had a large following of GDR listeners. One of them is Christian Bergmann** nowadays living in a village called Borna. "Dear Peter, dear FRSH Crew, congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of the great Free Radio Service Holland! I wish FRSH in the forthcoming years of broadcasting success, always good propagation conditions

and responses by the listeners audience. **Many thanks to you, and everyone involved in FRSH, for providing me and all the many other listeners your always enjoyable and informative programmes since 1980. Unfortunately I wasn't able to tune in to your broadcasts on short wave in a regular way in recent years, but I always tried to tune in to your internet streams, like today. It's a great pleasure for me to tune in to your broadcast, I've been enjoying it very much! I think FRSH is still one of the most professional free radio stations in Europe - after a time of 30 years - unbelievable! While writing this email I've been listening to your internet stream nednl.net:8000/frsh.m3u. Nice to hear your station in such an excellent quality. I hope also part 2 and 3 of "The FRS Anthology" will be streamed via the internet. Hearing some tracks of events in the FRSH history during the programmes arises in me the idea to watch the FRSH video again, which I had won in a FRSH competition in the 80s. Greetings from your listener Christian Bergmann, Borna, Germany." **Hi Christian, I was happy to hear from you. In the mean time we met again during the 2010 Radio Day edition, hope to meet you again in 5 months' time...****

**Even in the Ukraine we were picked up in October. The listener is Alexandr Kostiukevich** living in the big city of Kiev. "Dear Sirs, congratulations on 30 years of FRS-Holland on SW! I had great pleasure of receiving to your transmission in the park near my home with my pocket receiver and I think you will be pleased to know that your signal was audible in Ukrainian capital. Here is reception report: (via Radio 700) 6005 kHz, reception time: 15.30-16.00 (UTC/GMT)/ Reception date: 31 October 2010 (UTC/GMT). SINPO = 31532 (Strong interference from the Voice of Russia in Turkish and from China Radio International in Russian)."

**Jörg-Clemens Hoffmann** from Alsbach-Hähnlein is another true FRS supporter from the early 1980s. "Hi Peter, what a

nice, long and enjoyable broadcast to celebrate the 30th birthday of the FRSH! It brought back a lot of good memories from the early 80s. I cannot believe that I am listening to your station for over 30 years now. Time is flying! All the voices, jingles and music are still in my mind and sounding so fresh and familiar. Good to hear -Echo Beach- again, one of my favourites from the 80s. On the other hand it is a little bit sad to hear how good Free Radio sounded in those days. And today ....? There are only a few stations with programmes worthwhile to listen to. The FRSH is one of them! So thanks a lot, Peter and a big congratulation for running the FRSH for such a long time. Be sure I am looking forward to hear the two other transmissions coming up soon. With the very best greetings to you and family, yours in Free Radio, Jörg." **Thank you dear Jörg. I share your opinion that the SW FR scene in the 80s was much more interesting than nowadays. Txs for an interesting letter & a detailed reception report.**

"Dear Peter, hello FRSH-Crew, thank you so much for last Sundays first part of the FRSH-30th Anniversary Trilogy. All in all it was a very emotional broadcast that brought back lots of wonderful memories! I am already looking forward to the announced further two birthday-transmissions in November and December 2010! The best reception results performed the 6005-kHz- relay here in Southern-Germany. With kind regards."

**Michael Geisel, Pfullingen/ Germany**

**Vincent Schriel** from Rotterdam, the Netherlands writes: "Today October 31st 2010 I listened between 08:52 and 13 UTC to your programmes on 7600 kHz. After 13 UTC I tuned to 6005 kHz. Excellent to hear the story of 30 Years of FRS-Holland. Looking forward to the next broadcast. Much of success with the station! "

With the improved technologies and the internet much is possible nowadays. If you live in another part of the world, you can try your luck picking up FRS-Holland via a so-called web controlled receiver. That's exactly what **IsaoYamanaka** did **October 31st 2010**: "I hear your station on a remotely controlled receiver located in Embleton, UK. That's a nice tool for me to listen to radio stations in Europe. I tuned in to 6005 with a sinpo of 35443."

"Happy Birthday FRS-Holland. It's amazing that you're still on the air after all these years. As always it was a pleasure to listen to your shows. Your radio friend in Norway" writes good old **Rune Haaland**. May I say it is amazing you are still tuning in to our shows after all these years dear Rune? (Rune did already tune in in the early 1980s). Thanks for your support.

Let's stay in Scandinavia. **Kurt Norlin** is one of the many listeners who sent us reports for all of the Anniversary broadcasts thus collecting the complete series of QSL cards. "Earlier I mostly did listen from Pärpälompolo in northern Sweden, about 60 km north-west of Pajala near the border to Finland. Now I mostly listen from my home QTH located about 40 km south of Skellefteå. I can now use eight very good receivers (mostly professional JRC-NRD ones—PV). AM stations in Canada & the USA including Hawaii and Alaska are my favorite radio stations. I have enclosed a CD from October 31st & November 28th 2010 as well as from Feb. 27th 2011." Thank you Ken for an interesting letter and detailed reports. We love to have some on air recordings received on CD or via mail and often we're both amazed and excited to hear how well the signals are being heard



'FRS-Holland 30 Years on SW' QSL Series: The 90s (QSL #2)

at remote locations.

"Liebes FRS Team, vielen Dank für die Sendung am 21. November 2010 über die Frequenz 6005. Die Musik bei der Jan van Dijk Sendung zu den Jahren 83 und 84 war sehr gut und passend zu diesen Jahren ausgewählt." Thanks **Jens Goessing** from Cremlingen, Germany.

**Thomas Drescher** from Rösrath, Germany wrote in Dutch: "Het was erg leuk om de 30 Years Anniversary Party te vervolgen. Conditie zijn niet al te best geweest, zeer zwak op 7600 en ook zwak via Classic Broadcast Kall op 6005 kHz. In ieder geval hartelijk gefeliciteerd en het beste toegewenst voor de toekomst, teminste de volgende 30 jaren."

A number of listeners sent us a copy of one of their QSLs we forwarded a long time ago. For instance **Jouke van der Galiën** from Vries, the Netherlands whose copy dated back to

In October/ November 2010 & February 2011 FRS-Holland received letters & mails from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, UK, Eire, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan & India. That makes a total of 25-countries.

September 1985 when FRS was relayed via Radio Delmare on 6205 kHz. Thanks Jouke, brings back some nice memories. Thanks for all your letters and reports !

Halmstad in Sweden is the home town of Christer Brunström, a faithful FRS listener. "I really had a tough time listeing in to your broadcast October 31st. At 10:12 UTC I heard fragments of your broadcast on 7600. Best reception however was from 15:15 till 16 UTC on 7600. I suppose you played my contribution to the Anniversary show but I must confess that I didn't hear it despite listening in for quite some time. I fully realize that a lot of work went into producing this very long transmission." Well dear Christer, we were very happy with your mp3 contribution. I did a little investigation and found out it was played in my show but that was during our 3rd broadcast on February 27th at 09:42 UTC.

Part of our history certainly are the many GDR listeners in the 1980s. One of them was (is) Fritz-Walter Adam from Bernburg-Saale. Nowadays being a listener from Germany rather than East Germany, Fritz-Walter still is an enthusiast listener. "Man, man man...wie schnell doch 30 Jahre vergehen. Bei mir sind es je erdt 29 Jahre, seit dem ich Euch zum ersten Mal empfangen habe: 15th November 1981 on 7315 kHz, 09:33 UTC, 10W, wave dipole. So steht es auf der QSL. Die ganzen Jahre ward und siet ihr auch heute noch ein Begleiter in meinem DXer-Leben."

Kofferradio erzielte ich meine erste Erfolge auf dem 49 und 41 mb. Aber keine Spur von Free Radio Stationen! Wieder war ein Katalog in dem Weltempfänger vom Typ Grundig Yacht Boy 500 angeboten wurden.meine Rettung. Plötzlich stand das Tor zur grossen Radiowelt offen und es dauerte nicht lange, bis ich Radio Marabu, Level 48 und andere Stationen in meiner QSL Sammlung hatte. Am 16.11.2003 hörte ich endlich auch FRS-Holland und die Tatsache dass ich eine Stunde 'dran blieb' spricht für ein gutes Programm! An interesting story Steffen, thanks!

It's a pity that only few UK listeners are tuning their way and writing in. On the other hand it was good to receive a number of letters from new listeners. One of them is Chris Sentence from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. "The programme content was absolutely fascinating and I found it particularly interesting how it charted the overall decline in SW broadcasting in general. It was especially poignant as you reflected on to the passing of one of your presenters around 10 years ago. I really enjoy monitoring Free Radio broadcasts on Sunday mornings and I hope you are able to continue your good work."

"Enjoyed your informative and entertaining memories very much indeed, shall tune in for future SW trms. Thank you kindly. My receiver is a Sony ICF 2001D. Sinpo 54444 on 7600 kHz." Keith Pillimore, Rugby, Warwickshire, UK.

The great city of München/  
Munich

is Thorsten

FRS-HOLLAND 30TH ANNIVERSARY MAIL

1980 ■ 30th Anniversary ■ 2010

## FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND

QSL #1- The 1980s

To			
Time	UTC		
Date	Sunday October 31st 2010		
Frequencies	<input type="checkbox"/> 5800 kHz	<input type="checkbox"/> 7600 kHz	<input type="checkbox"/> 6005 kHz
Sinpo			
Power	<input type="checkbox"/> 125W	<input type="checkbox"/> 350W	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 kW
Antennas	2x half wave dipoles (5800 & 7600)/ double delta loop (6005)		

Thanks for your reception report and keep listening!!

Backside of the 30th Anniversary QSL #1: the 1980s

Another German listener is Steffen Werner from Heppenheim. "Ich bin 34 Jahre, seit inzwischen 15 Jahre h"hre ich Radio auf Kurzwelle und Free Radio ist für mich die spannendste Seite dieses Hobby, zu dem ich 1994 durch Zufall kam. Damals sties ich in einem Katalog auf das Buch 'Sender und Frequenzen', bestellte und verschlang es regelrecht. Mit einem

Brandenburg's home town. He is part of that remarkable club of long time listeners who already tuned in in the early 80s still tuning in nowadays...

"What a great amusing 2nd part of your Birthday Show. I am looking forward to the next one! The show was full of memories and I remembered the early 80s when I was a young boy. Great to listen again to all the former prsnters like Joop ter Zee, Barry Stephens or Chris from the German Service. I hope you will be also active for the next 30 years, hi! Then we will be real old men..."

Another member of this club writes: "Hallo Peter, after the end of your three parts of the 30th

Anniversary broadcasts I want to send the reception reports and taking the chance to say thank you for the 30 years of excellent entertainment and especially for the interesting anniversary broadcasts with memories of the past. My first report was from October 18th 1981 on 7315 and so I followed you through your complete history. Many thanks for your work all over the years." Thank you so much dear Rudolf Sonntag from Gilching in

Germany.

A most interesting and long letter was received from Paul Graham (no, not our Paul Graham-PV) from Rathangan in Ireland. "I have enjoyed listening to the 3rd Anniversary programmes. I was sad to hear of the poor response you got to the November broadcast considering all the hard work you and your team put into the programmes. I guess the problem for short wave now is how to get young people interested in it. Young people are used to hear the perfect clear sound of digital, it is hard to get them to listen to the faded signal off short wave. Also I think the fact that we use e-mail now, has made us lazy and we don't send as many letters as we should. I would like to thank you for the e-mails informing me about your shows on SW. I hope you will be on again soon and look forward to the pleasure of hearing your programmes again soon."

Although it is impossible to feature all letters, I would like to thank all listeners who responded to all of our Anniversary broadcasts. Among others Norbert Scheel from Berlin and Bjoern Qüack from Dortmund, Germany.

"Firstly it has been a very long time ago since I last wrote you a letter, yes I am still around and tune into all the free radio stations broadcasting on the good old SW bands every weekend. I heard all of your excellent broadcasts on account of your 30th Anniversary." Great you are still tuning in David Williams from Southampton, the UK.

**Free Radio Service Holland** QSL

INT MUSIC RADIO ON 48 M.

TO Mr. Nicholas Sharpe

TIME 11.15 - 11.45 GMT

DATE 23-11-80

FREQ. 6250 Kc.

SINPO 32222

POWER 10 watts

AERIAL 1/2 wave dipole

THANKS FOR YOUR RECEPTION REPORT AND KEEP LISTENING!

Last but not least a letter from Nicholas Sharpe from Laleham in the UK. "I was under the impression when I first tuned into 6005 kHz this morning that this is a legal German station and reception was very good from 08:00 UTC but within half an hour of your transmission at 09:30 UTC. I expect that reception will be getting better as the afternoon goes on. It is with deep regret that I will have to miss at least the second part of the three party 30th birthday shows on account I will be out of the country in Texas between 19th November and 10th December 2010. Hopefully the December transmission will not be on the 5th December. Comment on reception:..It is very clear that 5800 kHz is by far the worse of the three channels employed today but maybe reception is much better the closer one is to the transmitter, I can tell you that I can hear the signal but the noise level is so bad that it makes reception difficult. Perhaps reception will be better later in the afternoon." "Well Nicholas, you were lucky to be able to hear the repeat of our November 28th broadcast on December 12th, two days after your return from

the States. In December we received a 2nd letter. "Many, many thanks for kindly repeating the second part [November] of the 30th anniversary show today on the rather unusual frequency of 6401 kHz. I must admit when I tuned in at 07:52 UTC and could barely hear the usual interval signal I was concerned that the transmission was going to be a waste of time and effort but I sure was proved wrong by 08:10 UTC, when it seemed that either transmitter's strength was increased or it warmed up as reception proved to be very satisfactory at this location although still down on 7600 kHz which seems to be the ideal frequency for the station." Dear Nicholas, you proved to be one of our most loyal listeners over the past 3 decades. Thanks for all those excellent, interesting letters and the detailed reception reports.

And that concludes this bumper edition from the letters we received in October /November 2010 and February 2011. So much thanks to all of you!! ■

## THE 1983 RAID

By Peter Verbruggen

During the 15 years of SW broadcasts FRS-Holland was involved in a number of raids, either directly or indirectly.

January 16th 1983 is certainly the most memorable date because it was on that day that the Dutch RCD in co-operation with the German Bundespost raided FRS-Holland just after the close down of the regular 3rd Sun broadcast at 14.05 CET. At the moment that Peter V. switched off the 10W transmitter which had been operating that morning on 7320 and later on 7315, an RCD officer who had been hiding some 10 metres from the transmitting equipment, came out of the bushes and called in for assistance. A few moments later he was joined by a colleague and a police officer. Two 10W transmitters, two aerials, a new auto-reverse cassette machine, one rather expensive & heavy 350 amps car battery and two invertors were confiscated. But that was not all: they drove to Peter's house where another two brand new 40W rigs were taken plus 4 invertors. Peter's studio equipment was left alone because of his kind cooperation. There are a few remarkable details surrounding this black day in FRS' history: during this broadcast a new auto-reverse cassette deck was used to reduce the risk. Normally a total of three cassette changes had to be made during a regular 4 hour broadcast, with this new deck only one change was necessary. And: January 1983 was the first time a heavy 350 Amps car battery was used to ensure power would remain at a maximum during the whole broadcast. It was not only the first but also the last time that battery could be used...

[to be continued on page 23]

*In the months prior to the Anniversary Broadcasts, former FRS presenters were invited to send us their personal memories of 30 Years FRS-Holland. Either written or spoken/recorded as an mp3 file. Most presenters responded sending an MP3 file. We won't withhold some of their sympathetic contributions; we therefore had to transfer spoken audio files into text files.*

**Gerd, Edmonton/ Canada** (co-presenter in the ILLS > 1985– May 1991)

“Boy, that really had to sink in! FRSH started the same year that John Lennon was murdered and FRSH has been a part of 50% of my life! Hard to imagine. I probably was one of the first listeners to FRSH. I remember that the reception was so good with a SINPO of 55555 that I thought the transmitter was located somewhere in the south of the Netherlands. Well, I was right! But it really took my by surprise when it turned out the transmitter was located not more than a mile from where I lived at that time! Of course the fun thing was that Peter Verbruggen contacted me and invited me to visit the studio. One thing led to another and before I knew it Peter asked me to co\_host the International Listeners Letter Show to handle the German letters. And the station had a great following in what was then the GDR/DDR. Eleven years after the start of the station I moved to the west of the Netherlands but the contact with the station kept alive. And even now I have moved even further West to the great country of Canada I still count Peter Verbruggen as one of my best friends. I am not able to listen directly to the FRSH transmissions anymore: the prairies are not known for their groundwaves, so I have to take to the Internet streaming of the broadcasts. The 8 hour time difference doesn't help much either. Anyway, I don't know if I can make the next 30 years, but I sure hope that FRSH can! Wishing you all a happy 30th Anniversary guys, Marten (the mailreader formerly known as Gerd).”

**Michael, Germany** (presenter German Service > Aug. 1982 and Dec. 1983)

“Well of course I do remember the “good old days”. Somewhere, I have all the tapes of the half hour shows on FRS. Meantime a lot changed, so I'm afraid that I don't have the time to do it. I'm fine, not very much free time, too much to do. I have my own little factory producing furnitures, so you may understand, that there is always much to do by planning, calculation and so on. Since more than 20 years I work at the evenings or weekends for Vatican Radio, German section, doing the public relations for the German language countries and parts of the internet platform. It takes lot of time but for the whole years I does it up to know, there's a lot of knowledge, that makes it easier. May be we keep in contact. Kind regards, Michael.”

“Ich erinnere mich noch sehr gut daran: Der Start von FRS\_Holland von 25 Jahren. Auch wenn ich nicht von Anfang an dabei war, so doch als Hörer. Wer träumt damals nicht davon: DJ auf Caroline, Mi Amigo oder Radio Nordsee. Die Berichte, wenn die holländische Polizei wieder versuchte, das Schiff zu kapern. Nächstelang hörte ich zu, schrieb nach Rosas in Spanien. Und dann \_ irgendwann mehr durch Zufall kam ich selbst dazu, zu den Landpiraten: bei verschiedenen kleineren Radios machte ich unre-

gelmäßig Programmem, kam zufällig zum englischen Radio East Coast Commercial, und irgendwann fragte mich Peter Verbruggen, ob ich nicht Lust hätte, alle 4 Wochen für eine halbe Stunde das deutsche Programmem zu machen. FRS\_Holland war schon was: 3\_4 sprachig, vor allem aber FRS goes DX. Was heute kaum noch jemand verstehen kann, der moderne Radiostationen kennt und dort schon mal selbst produziert hat, digital aufgezeichnet, am Computer geschnitten und ab zum Satelliten: Die Technik von damals war einfach und erforderte Fingerspitzengefühl: Keine CD, kein Computer, kein email, kein Internet \_ alles rein von Hand gemacht: Plattenspieler, Mischpult, Cassettendeck, Jingle\_Maschine, live eine halbe Stunde aufzeichnen, als Audio-kassette zur Post und dann 1 Woche später als Konserve raus in den Äther: “from somewhere in europe we are the free radio service holland ...” Alle 4 Wochen die bange Frage: Wird es klappen? Keine Post, keine Polizei, die die Übertragung stört und dem Sendergerät von Peter irgendwo auflauert? Denn die Sendungen gingen ja einige Stunden, und das Risiko war nicht unerheblich. Aber: meistens klappte es jedenfalls und eine ganze Menge Post kam zurück, aus allen Teilen Deutschlands und den Nachbarländern. Und die Musik? Die Neue deutsche Welle war damals das Zauberwort hier in den deutschsprachigen Programmen, die außer von mir teilweise von Chris moderiert wurden. Irgendwann wurde es stiller mit den freien Radios \_ leider, denn der Privatfunk kam, freie Lizenzen, weg von den öffentlich\_rechtlichen Radiostationen, von denen in Deutschland wohl nur SWF3 eine große jugendliche Hörerschaft hatten. Es war eine schöne, ruhigere Zeit als heute, trotzdem: schön, dass heute FRS zum Jubiläum nochmals sendet: HAPPY BIRTHDAY! “

**Barry Stephens/ UK** (FRS Golden Show/ English Service > August 1980– July 1985) & **Steven Reath** (FRS Golden Show > March- December 2001)

“Hi, this is Tom Taylor from European Music Radio. It's great to know that FRS-Holland has made it to 30 years just like EMR a few years ago and is continuing. Its programme standard is very good and I am glad that Peter Verbruggen has carried the station through all these years. The trials and tribulations of raids and God knows what else...and all the other things that happened. But I am proud on FRS-Holland to be part of the station in the past as Barry Stephens. I hope the station will be around for another 30 years but considering our ages we probably won't be around then but in the spirit world (laugh). Good luck to FRSH and all the people who have been on it. Best wishes for listeners and staff.”

**Mark Stafford & Tony Mitchell/ UK** (English Service > December 1987– October 1996)

“Hi, this is Mark Stafford dropping in to the Free Radio service Holland on this 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Can't believe it...30 years on the air for the Free Radio Service Holland. I did 13 years myself in the world of short wave pirate radio and that seems a very long time but 30 years....Peter Verbruggen and the crew certainly need congratulations on managing 30 years on the air . I spent a number of years on FRSH in the late 80s and into the 90s, firstly as Mark Stafford and then as Tony Mitchell. It was a great time I must admit and I have got some great memories of the songs we played way back then. So I say: happy 30<sup>th</sup> birthday to the FRSH and PV in particular who's led the team over all those years on air.”

### Jonny 'JB' Best/ Germany (German Service > April 1990– April 1992)

Ich bin JB. Früher nannte ich mich noch Johnny Best. Damals in den 80ern war der Sonntag immer reserviert für die Kurzwellenpiraten, die frühmorgens aufgestanden waren, um ihre Geräte und Antennen aufzubauen, und für uns gesendet haben. Und wenn dann mal der FRSH zu hören war, war das für mich immer etwas Besonderes, denn er hatte immer engagierte Programme wie zum Beispiel das DX-Programm, den Hörerbriefkasten und natürlich die vertrauten Stimmen von Peter Verbrüggen und Joop ter Zee. Eine Zeitlang war ich selbst im Team des FRS-Holland. Ich habe dem FRSH auch mal mit einem Sendestandort ausgeholfen. Im deutsch-belgischen Grenzgebiet gab es einen UKW-Piraten von mir, der Richtung Deutschland gesendet hat: Power FM. Und in diesem kleinen Haus an der Grenze haben wir am Sonntag frühmorgens die Anlagen mit Techniker Bobby Speed aufgebaut. Da habe ich dann zum ersten Mal die großen, schweren Röhrensender gesehen. Wir konnten nur hoffen, dass die Ausbreitungsbedingungen gut waren, damit jeder das Programm hören konnte. Ich glaube, sie waren nicht ganz so toll, aber zumindest mittelmäßig. 30 Jahre FRS Holland ist eine unglaublich lange Zeit, und ich habe mich sehr gefreut, dass sich PV bei mir gemeldet hat und dass er es noch immer macht, und zwar auf Kurzwelle und nicht nur im Internet. Er bleibt der Kurzwelle treu, und das finde ich gut! Und das bleibt vielleicht die nächsten 10, 20 oder 30 Jahre lang so. Also, Peter, hau' rein und mach' weiter so. Und wer sich fragt, was JB heute eigentlich macht: Ich bin immer noch beim Radio, beim Privatrado, und habe die H o m e p a g e [www.radioszene.de]. Vielleicht höre ich mal von dem einen oder anderen, der mir früher mal Hörerbriefe geschickt hat, so richtige Papierbriefe, auf einer Schreibmaschine getippt. Ich kann mich noch an einige Hörer erinnern: Uwe Jülich aus Zeitz, Rainer und Gerwin Schütte aus Berlin, Gerald Hauck aus Erfurt. Es gab damals ein paar sehr treue Hörer gerade aus der DDR, die ja kein Rückporto beilegen konnten und stattdessen Postkarten schickten. Die Briefe habe ich alle noch. Ich bin stolz darauf, ich muss sie mal wieder ausgraben. Und wenn sich jemand an mich erinnert, dann schreib' mal eine Mail: [jib@radioszene.de]. Also, Peter, ich freue mich auf die nächsten 30 Jahre!

the world (even from Argentina, if I remember well) it was pretty obvious working for a short wave radio station was not A Good Way to meet girls. Not even with a great station like FRSH. Apart from this slight disappointment I only have great memories. Working with FRSH, especially in the early years, was making radio at its purest. Technology was far from the advanced state today, and we had to work with what we could afford. And the equipment we couldn't afford we tried to build ourselves. This meant we sometimes had to stop recording a broadcast and heat up the old soldering iron to fix a broken piece of equipment. At that time we considered it to be very professional to call out the actual clock time in GMT every once in a while. Something like: "Ladies and gentlemen, FRSH time is now 13.00 hrs GIVIT". This was of course to keep up the impression of real time live broadcasts, even though we usually recorded a show several weeks before the actual broadcast. Due to the occasional repair breaks it was quite a challenge to keep clock times aligned. And still, if we thought we managed this pretty well, the actual broadcast could start later than planned. You will understand FRSH time could be pretty unrelated with real time. Anyway, sweet memories which still make me feel



### FRS-Holland 30 Years on SW' QSL Series: The 2000s (QSL #3)

good. Now I could also share my memories of the first recording facilities, the trapdoor that was the only entrance to the room we pretentiously called 'Studio' and Peter Verbruggen's ability to operate the trapdoor whilst holding a plate of mugs with hot coffee overhead. Indeed, during recording sessions, so he managed to perform his trick silently as well. But I'll leave those memories to others. As for my favourite record to play: well, we must have played hundreds of songs in those years. But when I make a mental recollection of my own playlists, there's really only one that stands out. It's 'The Happening' by Miss Diana Ross and the Supremes. It's one of those 60's feel-good songs that keep playing in your head for days. Due to compression used, it actually sounds better on AM (and of course shortwave radio, for that matter) than on modern FM radio or CD playback. Hope we can still find it in the library. My name is Fred van S, signing off. Thanks for listening and providing

### Fred van Es/ The Netherlands (Musical Express > August 1980– late 1983)

To be honest, my main incentive for joining the FRSH team in the late 70's was the vague promise to meet more women. Hey, I was about 17 at the time and like any young adult I was a bit preoccupied with the opposite gender back then. However, when the QSL reports started flowing in from all over

valuable feedback over the years. And thanks to you all for all the great memories.

**Bert van Leer/ The Netherlands (Musical Express > August 1984– May 1987)**

Hi, I am Bert van Leer. I have several good FRSH memories. I was involved in the station in the mid 80s. So I will share some memories with you which I have. I remember quite well the pxs I did with Fred van Es around 1984/1985. Some of these shows contained an item called the Hazes Top 3 (H6 top 3...). This was a chart with the 3 songs we liked most from the famous Dutch singer André Hazes who died btw September 2004. I guess nobody outside the Netherlands understood that item in those days. Another good memory is the North Sea trip we- Peter, Gerd, I & two other guys- made to the radio ships in the Knock Deep May 1985. I remember sitting in PVs car and while we were approaching the Belgian harbour of Nieuwpoort where we should set sail listening to the crystal clear reception of Charlie Wolf on Laser 558 KHz AM. We had quite a number of bottles of beer with us which would make our trip a bit more pleasant. We got on the boat with Captain Leen Vingerling and took a beer feeling really great. When we sailed to open seas, the relatively small vessel started shaking and rocking some of us got really sick and started to throw up. The rest of the beer remained untouched... Another memory which comes to mind is from the beginning of 1983. I just started to present a daily radio show on a Belgian FM station at that time, Radio Atlantis. Peter and I went to a radio event somewhere- I can't exactly recall where- and there was a stand from former RNI goes DX presenter AJ Beirens who represented Alfa Sound Productions from Steve England. He had this great album for sale with more than 100 Sonovox jingles, music beds, effects & other great stuff. That period I had just left the army and I was looking for a job, being temporarily unemployed and money was tight. There was this great album which cost 50 Dutch guilders, not particularly cheap for an album! So me and Peter decided to share the costs and bought the album which is perhaps the most used album for FRS jinglew production purposes in the 1980s. And: it was very often used by Belgian so-called free radio FM stations FRS people were involved in as well! I think the sound and feel of the Alfasound jingles matched very good with the sound of FRSH and was fitting very well in the fast moving radio show I did in Belgium at that time. Later that year we ordered our own jingles at Alfasound, certainly a set of highly professional jingles!

**Stefan Kramer/ Germany (German Service > December 1990– August 1997)**

30 Jahre FRS-Holland – ich kann es eigentlich nicht glauben. Aber auf jedem Fall freut es mich, dass solch gute Radiostationen doch noch aktiv sind, und ich wünsche Peter Verbruggen und der jetzigen Mannschaft vom FRS Holland, dass sie weiter mit diesem großen Engagement den Äther unsicher machen wird. Wer sich dafür interessiert, was Stefan Kramer momentan macht, der hört einiges auf [www.radio-benelux.de], denn so ganz habe ich das Radiomachen auch noch nicht aufgegeben. Und vielleicht hört man mich irgendwann auch wieder auf der kurzen Welle. ■

**FRS-Holland, Not Just a Station....**

**It's a Tradition**

**How the 30th Anniversary Broadcasts came about**

Already in 2009 the idea was born to celebrate FRS' 30th anniversary. Some listeners are obviously mistaken thinking FRS broadcasts are either Birthday or X-Mas occasions. That is far from the truth as we have to go back to **1999** when FRS-Holland celebrated its previous anniversary. The only occasional broadcasts were the mostly popular Seasonal broadcast late December. Six years ago- in 2005- we aimed to celebrate our 25th birthday but sadly, due to personal circumstances, that broadcast had to be cancelled. In the mean time 5 years had passed and we felt 2010 was the moment to celebrate 30 years of broadcasts. Following a very active period of broadcasts starting in October 2009, preparations for the 30th Anniversary broadcasts started in March 2010.

One of the problems to be solved was *how to put 30 years of FRS-Holland into one broadcast*. Our conclusion was that it would be impossible! Besides: right from the beginning we wanted to give enough time to our anthology, spanning no less than three decades. And so the best solution we felt was to spread out the celebrations over three separate dates. The first one was Sunday Oct. 31st 2010 followed by November 28th 2010 and February 27th 2011.

One of our slogans is [A Balance Between Music & Information]. Taking that into consideration, the main idea was to play the best in *music* from the past 3 decades along with *information*. Our listenership was asked to participate by sending in FRS memories; former presenters were invited to send their personal memories about their period on FRS-Holland. The first 10 years 1980-1990 were already put in words, remember our late 1990 documentary '10 Years in the Life of FRS-Holland'. The following 20 years had to complete out entire 30 year history and were written in the 2010 Summer; so-called Fact Files had been produced covering specific subjects from FRS' history. Moreover: countless FRSH shows on cassette - *over 200 hours*- were digitalized and compiled into digital extracts. Special German & English jingles were produced, a Listeners' Competition and.... . All ingredients made up the format we had in mind.

These were my words spoken at the start of our 30th Anniversary trilogy, October 31st 2010:

*"On behalf of the FRS Staff from past and present I invite you to accompany us on a magical journey through the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s covering 30 years of FRS-Holland. It is our anthology and we feel now is the time to share it with you. Let's celebrate and Feel the spirit of radio...the spirit of Free Radio on SW."*

## Special moments to remember

- part 1 -

**The fact that FRS-Holland was responsible for putting out its own programmes could result in funny, strange, unexpected but also risky situations. This is Peter Verbruggen recalls from how he got out of a very tricky situation August 15th 1982 ....**

"It was the first time I overslept myself. I picked up a friend who would help me that morning. We rushed to the location and at 10.35, some 40 minutes too late, programmes commenced. It is important to know that we had been given access to a piece of private ground from which the transmissions had been coming already since the very beginning of FRS-Holland. This ground belonged to Bobby Speed's father and he knew about the transmissions, that was no problem at all for him. Coincidentally or not, precisely that day I had no key to the gate which gave access to the location. So there was no other choice than parking the car outside the forest of Mr. Speed Sr. It was surrounded by a large fence and I remember there was only one place we could make use of to enter the forest. The car was parked in front of this spot, near the road and at least 100 metres had to be lugged with the equipment to reach the fixed location. We returned at approx. 10.45 to the car bearing in mind to be careful at the moment we had to leave the wood because Sunday morning walkers, passing by, could get suspicious when seeing two men carrying a large plastic bag. They could think we were poachers. I said to my friend: have a look to see if the coast is clear. So he walked cautiously to the road where he was welcomed with open arms by the police. I myself wasn't aware of the situation until he returned

**FRS Sales Productions....the best choice in radio recordings from Sea to Satellite and from Landbased pirates to legal radio.**

and told me so. At first I thought he was joking but within a minute I had to face up the reality. Already at 10.15 while we were busy installing the equipment and firing up both transmitters, the police men were phoning PV's house. They found out my address and telephone number via my car's number plate. My sister took the telephone call was asked what my car was doing there. Before she could reply she heard through the phone the policemen's walkie talkie receiving a call from a 2nd person saying: let

out of the bushes! The curiosity of be easily found my car rather strange road. Because of we were in, both of my car. Anyway,



immediately started making inquiries and their main question was what we were doing in the wood?! As I carried that large bag containing a receiver and a spare aerial I declared without a moment's thought, we were radio-amateurs trying to hang up the aerial to achieve good reception and I added the reception that morning was badly affected because of the rain forcing us to give

go, he's coming. The reason for the police could explained: they unlocked on that spot near the the hurry we us forgot to lock the police

up the experiment. To convince them I also told them the story about the key and the fact I had permission to set foot on that piece of wood because I knew the owner. Either way they didn't believe my story and both of us were taken to the local police-station. In the mean time the transmission continued. Having arrived at the police-station at 11.00 one of the two officers called the owner and asked him if he knew me. Bobby Speed's father immediately reacted and said I was a friend of his son, having permission to set foot on his land. Believe it or not, within 2 minutes we again sat in the police-car and this time on our way back to my car. They dropped us without forgetting to warn me to lock the doors of my car from now on. Then they disappeared. The first thing I did was to go back to the transmitters because in the mean time a cassette change had to be made .... I know I was taking a big risk but I didn't have any choice. By the way: after the 11:00 call from the police, Bobby Speed who was at home undertook immediate action taking no risk at all. He called Frankie Fanatic who lived very close to my house and made sure that the spare transmitters were safely hidden." ■

## The Beginning part 2

Sun August 31st 1980 marked FRS-Holland's debut on SW. At 09.45 CET the 10W rig was switched on and 4 hours and 15 minutes later FRSH closed down. The first official 48 mb frequency was 6250. FRS provided an international flavour of music & information presented in English, German & Dutch. The first ever programme schedule was as follows: FRSH continued with 4th Sun of the month broadcasts but that changed in December as a result of the raid on sister station EMR. FRS moved to the 3rd Sun. December brought a very important improvement. Barry S. came to Holland and with him two 10W transmitters. On Sun Dec. 14th FRS-Holland tested on 7325, running in parallel with 6250. 41 metres did very well and one week later FRS made a 3rd Sun transmission for the first time, it

10.00	English Service-Barry Stephens
10.30	German Service- Chris
11.00	Musical Express- Fred van Es
11.45	FRS Goes DX- Peter Verbruggen
12.15	Album Show- Frankie Fanatic
12.45	FRS Golden Show- Joop ter Zee
13.15	I.L.L.S.- Joop & Peter
14.00	Close down. (Times in CET)

was also the first time that two frequencies were used for a scheduled trm. Both transmitters were built-in in a wooden suitcase. Already at 07.30 GMT that morning a special 60

minute test to the USA was carried out but problems with the car battery meant the test had to be cancelled after only 15 minutes. At 08.30 GMT EMR was relayed for 60 minutes followed by a 4 hour FRS X-Mas special, the birth of a long tradition. Most X-Mas trms were recorded with several FRS jocks together in the main studio adding something extra to the programmes.

*For the technical minded among you: the first two transmitters had an output of 10W (10,000 mW...!!), consisting of a self oscillating 807, a 6L6 and an ECC86 for the modulation part. You could achieve a wonderful modulation with these tiny crystal controlled units.* ■



members received a monthly newsletter called 'FRS Goes DX'. Since then the magazine has developed into a very informative quarterly radio magazine. August 15th we had a narrow escape. Presence of mind kept us out of the hands of the local police. Fact is they were less than 75 metres from our actual broadcasting location having any idea at all about illegal SW broadcasting. They just thought we were 'little' criminals.... Yes indeed! December 1982 we re-commenced 48 mb trms with a brand new 40W rig, running at approx. 8W. **January 16th 1983** is a black day in our history. At 14.05 CET FRSH was raided by the Dutch RCD in co-operation with the German Bundespost. Reminiscing, one thing will always be remembered as very annoying and frustrating. The evening before the raid Peter V. completed work on two new 40W rigs. It was originally intended to make them operational January 30th (5th Sun broadcast). An almost new 350 amps (!!) car-battery was obtained to power both txs at the site somewhere in the forest. We've never had the chance to use them on-air on full power.... After confiscating the transmitting equipment at the FRS site, the RCD and police officers went to Peter V.'s house where even more equipment was found including the two 40W rigs. Luckily the recording studio was left untouched, nevertheless FRSH lost 4 transmitters, two aerials, 2 car-batteries, 6 inverters, a cassette machine. Already two weeks later on Sun January 30th FRSH returned to the airwaves with a special broadcast to announce the sad news to the listening audience. Between February and June 1983 FRSH continued via a 41 mb relay. In the 1983 Summer we were offered air-time via the very powerful Radio Delmare transmitter located somewhere in Belgium. We've never taken an easier/quicker decision! **July 24th**, one week too late, a historical date: FRSH's debut on 6205 with a power of more than 1 kW! Because the Delmare relay service was run much to our satisfactory, plans were developed to introduce a brand new 6 hour programme-schedule. With a new slogan "A Balance between Music and Information" the 10.00-16.00 CET schedule was introduced

10.00	FRS Magazine- Peter V. & Joop ter Zee
10.45	FRS Golden Show- Barry Stephens
11.15	FRS Goes DX- Peter Verbruggen
12.00	Musical Express- Bert van Leer & Fred van Es
12.45	Free Radio Spot
13.15	Sounds Alternatives- Joop ter Zee
14.00	I.L.L.S. part 1- Chris & Peter
14.30	German Service- Danny Kay
15.15	I.L.L.S. part 2- Chris & Peter
15.45	FRS Goes Nuts
16.00	Close Down (Times in CET)

January 1984. Here's a rundown of what was aired in 1984:

March 26th 1984 **Radio Delmare** was raided because of medium wave trms which were aired with the same tx the SW broadcasts were carried out with. And that meant an end of our activities, at least for the time being. Three months later programmes via Delmare were recommenced on low power. Eight months after the raid, November 1984, power was increased and from that moment on much better results were achieved. December 1984 the very first **FRS video** was produced showing the main FRS studio and the transmitting site. The period January-July 1985 was characterized by weird conditions being very unreliable. FRSH's output was suffering from one major problem: the so-called long-skip conditions implying that signals travel long distances, at the same time leaving listeners within a range varying between 200 and 400 km without any reception. Long-skip is creating a vast area, a so-called dead zone, in which the signal cannot be picked up! In the Summer of 1985 FRS offered a **T-Shirt** for sale, the promo for that shirt perhaps became more famous than the shirt itself! From August 1985 onwards propagation was slowly improving and until December of that year, FRSH served its European audience with a number of successful broadcasts, hundreds of letters were received. The start of 1986 was rather disappointing because Delmare was forced to cease operations mainly for security reasons. We realized it was wrong to depend only on Delmare and thus we started looking for suitable alternatives. We succeeded in contacting Radio Rainbow in Ireland and the I.R.R.S. in the UK. May 1986 saw FRSH back on the wireless via the I.R.R.S. and Radio Rainbow following a 4 month silence. Coincident or

not: already that same month (on the 18th) FRSH's return via Delmare would have taken place but was delayed by two weeks. And so it was **June 1<sup>st</sup> 1986** when after exactly 5 months of silence Delmare's powerful signal returned on the European airwaves. Listeners could retune their radios to 6206.7 kHz (consequently announced as "six-two-0-Five"). Conditions happened to be rather poor in the months to follow. A major change came in the 1986 autumn offering most listeners the chance to listen to FRSH in fine quality. FRSH continued with monthly 3rd Sunday trms but this came suddenly to an end May 17th 1987 when at approx. 12.40 CEST the big Delmare tx was switched off. The **second raid** within 3 years was the final blow. Station OP Peter V. had to look for new possibilities as FRS didn't possess any transmitting equipment since the 1983 raid. Five regular trms were aired via several relays during the remaining June-December period of 1987, so only two months were missed. A second major setback that year was **the raid of Superclean Radio** November 8<sup>th</sup> 1987. Since August it was this station which was responsible for relaying FRS' programme tapes. By the end of 1987 FRS-Holland introduced a **brand new jingle-package** which was produced by **PAMS UK Ltd.** It was April 1988 (following a two months silence) when regular 3rd Sunday broadcasts were resumed via a new, reliable and powerful relay- possibility. Highlight was the August transmission- the 8th birthday celebration- being aired on no less than three different frequencies. But there was also **bad news** in 1988: October 16th during the FRS 3rd Sun broadcast, the Radio New Wave OP got an unwanted visit from the the Dutch RCD. For the second time within 12 months FRSH lost a reliable and powerful relay-station. All in all only 3 broadcasts were missed in 1988. In 1989 FRSH followed the same line as the previous year although it became more and more difficult to keep the station on air every 3rd Sunday. Although we could still make use of a few reliable relay-stations, it was simply too risky for them to relay us each month. One major change was that FRSH operations shifted from 48 to 41 metres: most broadcasts were successfully carried out on or close to 7310 kHz. Another development was that for the first time since 1983, FRSH was broadcasting with our own transmitting equipment. April 16th 1989 a modified 20W 807 FRS rig was in operation. For four successive months- the July-October period- FRSH was inactive. July saw a **change of address**: following an eight year period, the Dedemsvaart address was replaced by a brand new: P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. Nov. 12th a **brand new 150W transmitter** was tested on 7308. Two weeks later, Sun Nov. 26th a return was made with a 5 hour broadcast. From 1990 onwards FRSH wasn't fully dependant upon relay-stations anymore; regularly broadcasts with own transmitters were put on the air. Unlike 1989, FRS-Holland was silent in the first 2 months of 1990. March 18th a 60 min. test was made on 7308 with 150W of power followed by scheduled 3rd Sun broadcasts in April and June. July 15th FRSH made its **debut on 31 metres** 9985 with a nightly test. Talking of debuts: Sept. 9th a first test on 15046/19 metres in parallel with 6240 took place in the middle of the night. Almost 40 letters were received, a great result for a nighttime broadcast. In contrast with the previous years, FRS celebrated its 1990 birthday in October instead of August. Conditions during Summer were so poor that we were afraid all efforts to put together something special would be almost for nothing. It was decided to move the celebrations to October in the middle of fall when propagation was much better and more reliable. Sun October 21st 1990 marked our **10th anniversary**, a very special day in the station's history. That day FRSH programmes were aired on no less than **4 frequencies**: 7290, 6275, 6290 and 7490. In particular the 100W tx in operation on 7490 was putting out a superb signal and was clearly heard in all corners of Europe. By the way: the excellent propagation that day justified the decision to skip August in favour of October.... December 1990 a 270 minute documentary entitled "**10 Years in the life of FRS-Holland**" was broadcasted on 6275 kHz. This definitive FRS History was produced by Joop ter Zee and Peter Verbruggen and ever since many listeners have purchased copies. Following the traditional Christmas December broadcast, FRSH went silent until March 1991 when a 3 hour broadcast was aired on 7290. More 3rd Sun trms were to be heard in April and May. The May one was **FRSH's 100th official 3rd Sun broadcast** since the start in August 1980. During the whole Summer there was inactivity and in the second half of 1991, FRS was broadcasting in September, October and December. 1992

started with a successful 2 hour **USA test** on 6283. Third Sunday broadcasts took place in April, May, October and December while nightly tests in June, August & September completed the activities in FRS' 12th year. 1993 was in many respects similar to 1992. It was once again April when the first SW pxs were aired, more broadcasts that year were noted in May, July, October & December. The latter was in fact intended to be broadcasted in November but went out Dec. 5th. For the first time since 1980, the traditional X-Mas broadcast had to be **cancelled**

**due to** circumstances beyond our control. 1994 saw the FRS crew in an optimistic mood because a new relay possibility was found securing regular monthly trms for at least a few months. FRSH broadcasts were secured for a 4 month period between January and April. Signals on 7414 were satisfactory in contrast with the modulation which was far from good. In one way or another the person operating the tx was unable to solve the modulation problem. To make matters worse: conditions were appalling resulting in large dead zones, areas where no FRS signals were to be received. From May onwards the relay possibility was no longer open and it took no less than 6 months until FRSH returned on the airwaves. The October broadcast was a success, non-stop pxs were heard for almost 20 hours starting Saturday evening and in addition 7420 was in use on Sunday morning. 1994 was ended with the December X-Mas

programmings. In 1995 FRS activities were simmering. April 15th saw the very **first legal SW broadcast** via Italian **IRRS** on 7125 with 30 kW PEP. Early June a nightly test was made on 6273 and mid October a new location was in use to air the station's 15th birthday. Not only the site was new, also the 200W tx was in operation for the very first time. The 6285 signal was very strong but unfortunately the tx wasn't properly tuned causing a number of images on various frequencies. Christmas Eve brought some disappointment, the Christmas broadcast fell short of



expectations because the band conditions were more than poor. During most part of the broadcast people in a range of 400 km's of the tx site were unable to pick up even a 'glimpse' of the broadcast. It was extra sad because many listeners had been sending in dedications, Christmas greetings and record requests. December 25th and 31st brought two extra trms targeted at the continent of North America, however, conditions were spoilsport. Similar to the December broadcast, the first 1996 broadcast which was carried out April 28th, was ruined by poor conditions. Although two transmitters were running in parallel on 6252 and 6435, feedback from listeners was disappointing. Not to wonder knowing that most listeners within our target area were deprived of any FRS signal because of ultra long skip. Positive was that in some remote areas, strong signals were received proving it was not the tx but the conditions causing all the trouble. July 27th/28th, one week too late, FRSH was to be heard for almost 24 hours on 6275. Two US nighttime reports were received, daytime conditions were fairly poor. September 29th a second relay was conducted on 6275 via RFL but response happened to be rather low. Sun October 20th FRS celebrated its **16th anniversary** via RFL and a new, remote and private location in a southerly neighbouring country. Programmes were heard on 6275/3945 and via own equipment on 6243. Almost 70 reports were received. Sadly **Tony Mitchell** said goodbye to FRS-Holland in October 1996 due to other commitments. He had been on the station for almost 9 years with quality programmes and a great musical choice. The 1996 X-Mas broadcast for Sunday December 22nd with a total of 6 hours of programmes went out on 6243 from the afore mentioned new site. Sunday December 29th FRS rang out the year with another 24 hour broadcast on 6400 via RFL. Late 1996 Joop ter Zee finished work on a brand new and updated FRS-Holland website: [www.home.pi.net/~freak55/home.htm]. 1996 had certainly been a better year compared with 1995: five regular broadcasts along with a 5th Sunday one. We were quite happy & satisfied. Early April 1997 saw the very **final edition of the 'FRS Goes DX' magazine**. For almost 15 years 'FRS goes DX' had been a reliable source of information and as a result the free of charge 'FRS Newsletter' turned into a small but dedicated newsletter for subscribers. As with the previous two years, there was no FRS activity in the winter 1997 period. It even took two months longer before FRSH signed on: Sunday June 22nd and July 13th early Sunday morning tests were carried out both on 6275. FRS was proud to receive 2 reports from New Zealand and a handful of others from the USA.

August a 60 minute test from a FRS site was made already a week later on the 17th FRS put out a special Marine Offences Act. The broadcast was carried out from Peter Verbruggen's holiday site in a neighboring country. It would become **Stefan Kramer's final show** and for almost a year FRS would be without a German presenter. Sunday August 31st 1997 it was exactly 17 years ago that FRS-Holland officially commenced SW transmissions on 6250 kHz. Therefore a two hour unofficial celebration took place between 00:00 and 02:00 CEST on 3910 with an 80W rig.

The **official 17th anniversary** was on October 19th 1997 and happened to be the 125th official scheduled transmission. Broadcasts were aired on 6245, 6268 & 5805 from 3 separate sites in 3 different countries. No less than 100 reports were received from 10 different countries. Less positive was the fact that the FRS-Holland staff was reduced to station founder Peter Verbruggen and Joop ter Zee. Since FRS' start in 1983 the FRS team had always consisted of at least 4 people. Without any doubt the fact that two esteemed colleagues- Tony Mitchell and Stefan Kramer- left within a 10 month period was a great loss and FRS didn't succeed in quickly attracting new experienced presenters. December 1997 no Holiday Season broadcasts were conducted and 1997 certainly wasn't FRS-Holland's most active year. February 22nd saw FRS-Holland's 1998 kick off on 6242 kHz with a new programme called the Short SW Parade. Basically a show in which Joop ter Zee played "alternative music" not often to be heard on the radio. After many years of silence Barry Stephens reactivated European Music Radio resulting in a joint FRS-EMR relay on 6275 via Radio Free London on March 22nd and March 29th (repeat). Sunday April 5th FRS-Holland was heard again on 51 metres 5815 with own equipment. The 5815 outlet had been carrying out a solid signal that day. FRS-Holland started the 1998 Summer on

6242 kHz June 21st. Highlight that weekend was the **return of the German Service** on FRS-Holland after an absence of almost one year. It was very important to remember that FRS still had a large following of German DXers. In the Summer of 1982 George Strong presented his last FRS show, after 16 years (!!) he returned as Mark Jones on the first day of a new Summer. September 6th FRS was heard on 6285 between 03:00-05:00 CEST with an unsuccessful two hour night time test and September 28th between 10:00-13:00 CEST- FRS' 5th regular 1998 broadcast went out on 6242 with a 150W transmitter. On Sunday October 25th FRS-Holland celebrated its **18th birthday**.

To give you a complete picture: in the period September- December 1998 several relays took place via the SWRS: September 6th, 19th, 20th, October 18th and December 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 27th & 28th. All shows were recorded by Joop ter Zee & Peter Verbruggen and some of them went out more than one time. In October a completely **new FRS logo** was introduced and as a result new stickers and QSLs with the logo were printed. The logo was designed by Joop ter Zee's talented girl friend Willy. In December Joop ter Zee completed a package of new jingles. Voice-overs came from good old Nolan from the U.S.A. and former FRS presenter Johnny Best who willingly helped out his 'old' mates. Sunday December 13th FRS tested a new transmitter on 6210 in preparation for the X-Mas Party which was planned for Sunday December 20th but serious and unexpected technical problems prevented FRS to start up the broadcast. Via our friends in Hoozeveer, the new transmitter was repaired already one day later and December 27th FRS radiated the spirit of X-Mas radio with 50W on 6240. Signal quality however was relatively poor compared with the test on December 13th. January 6th FRS took part in the Second Contest Euro pirate "Memorial Michel Ravigneaux". Looking back at 1998 we can sincerely say it was quite an active year for FRS-Holland with a total of 7 regular third/fourth Sunday broadcasts. The most active year for a long time...

The **first 1999 FRS activities** started on January 24th on 6240 kHz with a 150W rig. After this broadcast FRS would remain silent for no less than 9 months. October 31st saw FRS-Holland's **19th birthday** on 6240 and two Dutch relays were used between 10:00- 14:30 CET. During the autumn Joop ter Zee and Peter Verbruggen started a new project: the production of the first **FRS-Holland jingle CD**. The jingle CD was released in October and had an appropriate title: **'From PRO7 to MD'** reflecting on two vital recording devices used to produce new jingles. And that was not all... An 8 page booklet accompanied the CD containing all kind of interesting background information regarding the rich FRS jingle history. A second jingle project had already started up early 1999: producing the **FRS Millennium Set**.

Peter Verbruggen came up with the idea of producing a set of jingles based on the upcoming new millennium. Nolan- FRS' *steady voice-over*-recorded the lyrics produced by Peter and Joop ter Zee did the technical job and styling. A number of German voice-overs were done by good old Johnny Best. The new set of jingles was introduced during the October 31st 19th anniversary shows. To promote the aforementioned new jingle CD a 90 minute promotional broadcast was carried out on 6210 on Sunday November presented by Joop ter Zee. Boxing Day December 26th FRS-Holland rang out both 1999 and the millennium with a combined X-Mas/ Millennium broadcast. Joop ter Zee, Mark Jones & Peter Verbruggen presented the final millennium programmes and correct reception reports were to be verified with a special and unique millennium QSL-card. 1999 had been rather disappointing. Looking at the broadcasting part of the story, we had only been on air with regular broadcasts in January, October & December. Let's not beat about the bush, the quantity on SW is not a guarantee for quality.

The magic year 2000 marked the start of FRS-Holland's third decade. Sunday February 27th FRS carried out an Internet broadcast via an American radio friend of Joop ter Zee, LD Brewer. The broadcast was heard over his personal website [www.ldbrewer.com](http://www.ldbrewer.com). More Internet activity went out Sunday April 30th. It would take 5 months until FRS' first 2000 SW activity was noted. Sunday May 28th FRS carried out a two hour night time broadcast on 15070 kHz/ 19 metres using our own 50W 19 mb rig followed by a broadcast on June 18th. June 2000 would be the **most memorable FRS month ever**, at least for the FRS team. June 27th

at 05.08 local time Joop ter Zee passed away in hospital at the age of 40. Joop suffered from Hepatitis C and a number of serious complications. Joop was cremated on Saturday July 1st and four of Joop's favorite records were played: Pearl Jam, The Who, The Verve and ABC. After the service



## Free Radio Service Holland

International music radio on 41/48 M.

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sinpo: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Power: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Aerial: \_\_\_\_\_

THANKS FOR YOUR RECEPTION REPORT AND KEEP LISTENING!!

### Special Joop ter Zee Memorial QSL card issued in Oct./Nov. 2000

a lot of Joop's (radio) friends got together, reminiscing. FRS Newsletter #27 from September 2000 covered the complete story of Joop's with a long article written by Peter Verbruggen. Joop- the Zeeman- ter Zee...he is sadly missed as a friend and radio friend. October 29th 2000 FRS-Holland put out a combined Joop Ter Zee **Memorial Broadcast/ 20th Birthday transmission**. Although it must be obvious that we concentrated almost fully on Joop ter Zee rather than our 20th birthday.... The broadcast on 6280 was presented & Peter Verbruggen. Ingredients: Joop ter Zee's favourite music and numerous contributions. Sunday Nov. 5th saw a full repeat of the Joop ter Zee Memorial Broadcast. The year 2000 would produce one more broadcast: on Sunday Dec. 31st FRS carried out an early morning test to the ringing out the most memorable year in FRS' history so far. An intended X-Mas Evening broadcast on Sun Dec. 24th didn't take place as the tapes didn't reach their destination in time...

January 21st 2001 an early morning test was conducted on 6289 kHz and as from February onwards FRS introduced an E-(lectronic) News Letter The E-News would be forwarded on an irregular basis. Edition #1 was sent on Monday February 5th. Perhaps more importantly: as from February 1st FRS-Holland had a **new address**: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. Sunday March 11th FRS-Holland took to the air with a new voice, namely that of Steven Reath. For many listeners it seemed to be a familiar voice and they were right: Steven Reath happened to be the aka for EMR founder and former FRS presenter Barry Stephens. March 18th and 25th saw two successive and successful 31 mb USA tests. In the following 6 months only one activity was noted: June 30th a brief nightly 19 mb. FRS continued with a brief test (Sept. 23rd), a **24 hour marathon** September 29th/30th on 7450 with a full repeat October 6th/ 7th.

We received a total of 100 letters and E-mails. Early October 2001 we were shocked about the **sudden death** of former GDR DXer Manfred Bredow. During the 21 years he tuned in, we received no less than 75 letters! The FRS 21st birthday programmes went out November 18<sup>th</sup> on several frequencies due to interference. In the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> December the 19th annual and traditional FRS Christmas broadcast took place. Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> FRS tested between 05.45- 08.00 UTC on 6275 kHz with own equipment. And with this test FRS concluded 2001. During the last 4 months of 2001 FRS-Holland had been very active but 2002 would be far from that. February 17<sup>th</sup> a successful early morning test to North America was conducted on 6285 kHz. FRS considered to go on air in the May/ June period but due to the appalling conditions, it was cancelled. March 23<sup>rd</sup> a brand new e-mail address came into force replacing all other ones: frs.holland@hccnet.nl. Following a 6 months silence FRS

returned to the airwaves on 7450 in the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, another 24+ hours broadcast. During that September broadcast **Paul Graham** made his debut show on FRS-Holland, hosting the FRS Golden Show. More broadcasts that year went out on Sun October 27<sup>th</sup> on 7480 (22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary) and December 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> when FRS should go out with a 5+ hour X-Mas broadcast via a relay facility to be aired on 7475 kHz/41 metres. However, things would take an unfavorable turn as the package enclosing the programmes, had not arrived in time. It was a miracle that we could arrange a site for Sunday! The X-Mas Season saw a short successful USA test on 6280 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December.

The first 2003 broadcast- including a show from the newcomer Frank Carson- would go out on February 23<sup>rd</sup> but had to be cancelled... Apart from some low power tests, it remained **silent for the first 8 months of 2003**. Nevertheless the FRSH spirit was still alive. A brief 40 min. show was carried out on 6211 kHz on Sun morning August 31<sup>st</sup> as that day it was exactly 23 years ago that FRS-Holland began its broadcasting life on the short wave bands. At long last there was a bit of positive news: FRS-Holland would return on the airwaves on a good old 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, celebrating its **23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary**. A foreign site was hired and Peter Verbruggen, Bobby Speed and Mark Jones spent that



*The FRS Studio Series QSL #1*

memorable weekend together putting out FRS' first regular 2003 broadcast. It was a fantastic weekend. In November FRS introduced a new QSL-Series under the name **"The FRS Studio Series"**.

Sun December 21<sup>st</sup> the traditional X-Mas broadcast went out on 6210. Christmas Day saw a repeat on 6210. 2003 had been a very inactive year with only **two regular FRS broadcasts**. The December 2003 double-edition 39/40 was the **final edition of the FRS Newsletter**. It marked the end of a 21 year period of subscription-based magazines produced by FRS. FRS News- the free newsletter- would continue focusing on FRS-Holland news only. The May 2004 edition #26 was completely restyled and in that edition it was proudly announced that FRS would soon be

back on the airwaves **on 9290 kHz with 100 kW!** Following careful consideration, the decision was taken to bring FRS-Holland soon back on the airwaves via the powerful Latvian 9290 kHz facility. The advantage of using 9290 was obvious: providing an excellent reception in all corners of Europe and in addition wide areas beyond. FRS-Holland took to the airwaves Whit Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> from 14.00-16.00 UTC with



*Impressive: the Latvian/Ulbroka 100 kW transmitter cabinet*

superb reception. Even on small portables. Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2004 marked FRS' second 9290 transmission and no less than 75 reports from a total of 17 countries including the USA, Japan & Australia were received. For the record: October 31<sup>st</sup> saw a 40W test on 7370 and Boxing Day on 6286. December 2004 the traditional and popular Holiday Season broadcast was skipped. 2005 was a very special year as August 31<sup>st</sup> marked **FRS' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Certainly a milestone! Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> FRS took to the air on 9290 with its 150<sup>th</sup> official SW broadcast! Frank Carson left but more serious was the fact that during the May broadcast, Mark Jones' final Off Beat show was aired. He had presented his alternative music show Off Beat for exactly 7 years. FRS News Volume 13 edition 28 of April 2005 called on listeners to participate in the upcoming 25th anniversary. The plan was to have an on air celebration party in October or November. But...Peter Verbruggen failed to live up to the expectations to organize the 25th anniversary mainly due to personal circumstances. For Peter certainly a huge disappointment knowing he was not able to do what he had in mind. It would take another 5 years before that wish would be fulfilled. Boxing day December 26<sup>th</sup> 2005 the spirit of X-Mas went out on 9290. No doubt 2006 was a poor year. The first and only broadcast that year took place in December showing that FRS had been off air for almost one year...an all time low! Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> FRS returned via a **new relay**: Mystery radio on 6220 kHz. One week earlier a 60 minute programme was aired on 6220 promoting the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> broadcast including the debut of the **new German presenter Jan van Dijk**. With both a new 6220 relay and German presenter things looked once again promising for FRS. In contrast with the previous years, the new year 2007 started with fresh courage and already on Sun February 25<sup>th</sup> FRS was active between 15.00-19.00 CET. A good choice: 6220 was very strong in the afternoon. The successful February broadcast was followed by an almost **9 month break**. Sun November 18<sup>th</sup> hit the airwaves between 09.00- 13.00 CET. The encouraging response made us decide to organize yet another broadcast before the end of the year and December 30<sup>th</sup> marked the start of a **new tradition: a festive Seasonal broadcast** taking place after the X-Mas weekend. Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup> FRS was heard on 6220 and in addition (and as a surprise) on an 'extra' 5815 service with 7 kW. With **Mike Anderson's debut**, two German presenters were active on FRS-Holland... Response really was overwhelming with a total of 70 letters and e-mails from 16 different countries. That month FRS introduced a brand new **'FRS Transmitter QSL series'**. In 2008 listeners had to wait **over 300 days** until Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> before hearing FRSH on 6220. On December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Peter Verbruggen was invited to participate in the Christmas programming of Dutch KBC Radio; Peter produced two

60 minute shows which were aired via the mighty 100 kW tx in Lithuania. 2008 would have one more broadcast in store. FRS very much wanted to continue with the success of the end of the year broadcasts and **Sun December 28th 2008** 5 hours of programmes went out on 6220 & 6400. The 6400 outlet was hired via a new relay and during the morning hours 6400 was running in parallel with 3945. In the afternoon the DX Show was aired with 100 kW on 9770 kHz. Response really was overwhelming and encouraging! The November-December edition 33 of FRS News was a 7 page bumper one being the **first to be published in color**. 2009 would start identical to 2006 and 2008 with a long period of non-activity. **Sun October 4th** FRS-Holland awakened: at 08.00 UTC 'Peace' from Peter marked the start of a **series of tests** on 7600 & 7685. October 11<sup>th</sup> saw a second 4 hour test. No doubt FRS was understandably interested in receiving reception reports as these tests were seriously aimed at using 39 metres more often in future. This frequency range was much less overcrowded compared with 48 metres and signals tend to be more stable and cover greater distances. For both October tests far **over 150 reports** were received. With the positive results of the October tests in mind, FRS decided to put out a **regular scheduled 7600//5810 broadcast** Sun November 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> a full repeat was made on 7600//9300. The November broadcast saw **Dave Scott's debut**. Loyal and older FRS listeners perhaps remember that there was a time when only two presenters were to be heard on FRS. In 2009 we were proud to have a **team of no less than five presenters**. For the 3rd time in a row, the traditional end of the year broadcasts took place **December 27th**. No doubt 2008 had been a **good year** with four successful broadcasts in the last three months of the year. 2010 marked FRS-Holland's **30th anniversary** and this time Peter Verbruggen was determined to produce something special. As opposed to 2009, and also in 2007, FRS activity had started in February. On the 28th FRS took to the airwaves on 7600//5800 kHz and a week later the complete broadcast was repeated. Already in March preparations had started to commemorate 30 years of FRS-Holland later in 2010. The idea was to fully concentrate on this milestone. However, the time between the previous March broadcast and upcoming on air celebration would perhaps become 8 or 9 months and so an old-fashioned 5th Sunday broadcast on 6400//9300 went out on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The full broadcast was repeated on 7600 kHz later on that day. In FRS News edition 35 which was issued at the turn of 2009-2010 the first mention was made of the upcoming FRS 30 Years on air festivities. It said: *"2010 is a very special year in the long history of the Free Radio Service Holland. This year marks our 30th anniversary, a milestone. In 2000 we haven't celebrated our 20th anniversary for sad reasons. Our 25th anniversary back in 2005 wasn't celebrated either. This year however we are determined to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Later this year there will be at least one special broadcast to celebrate 30 years of short wave free radio broadcasts. We invite listeners and colleague stations to participate. We'd like to receive as many personal memories*

*as possible (especially) from our listening audience! All these memories will be collected and become part of the FRS anthology covering 30 years of SW broadcasts. Show you are a true FRS-Holland supporter. Your involvement will turn our festive broadcast into an unforgettable event !"*

*The FRS-Holland  
October & November 2010  
30th Anniversary Listeners'*

During the October 31st and November 28th 2010 Anniversary broadcasts FRS-Holland ran two different competitions for its listening audience. Of course both ones were linked to the station's history. The **October competition** focused on the **1980s** and consisted of these two questions:

- 1) What was the main FRS-Holland frequency after the raid in January 1983 ?

Answer: 6-2-0-5 kHz.

- 2) What was the name of the station responsible for relaying FRS-Holland after the raid?

Answer: **Radio Delmare.**

The **November competition** focused on the **1990s** and consisted of these two questions:

- 1) In what month and year did FRS-Holland celebrate its 10th Anniversary?

Answer: **October 1990.**

- 2) Mention the names of five deejays who were presenting programmes on FRS-Holland during the 1990s.

Answer: Joop ter Zee, Peter Verbruggen,  
Johnny Best, Stefan Kramer, Mark Jones,  
Mark Stafford, Tony Mitchell & Gerd.

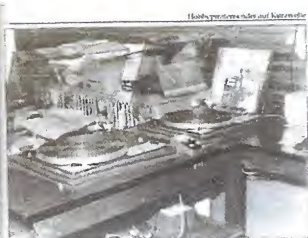
***The Winners....The Winners...The W.***

- **October 2010**  
Norbert Scheel from Berlin, Germany.
- **November 2010**  
Nicholas Sharpe from Laleham, United Kingdom.

Congratulations to Norbert and Nicholas. But...that's not all...we have drawn **two extra winners** for the 30th Anniversary Competition: Thomas Drescher, Rösrath, Germany & JC Hoffmann from Alsbach, Germany.

FRS-Holland, Just a bit Different....

All former FRS-Holland presenters will receive a copy of this 30th Anniversary booklet. Sadly two of them are no longer with us: **Joop ter Zee** who was on the station between 1980– 2000. Our very first German presenter was **Chris** and he remained on the station till 1984. We remember Joop and Chris as dedicated radio people who greatly contributed to the popularity of the station in the early 1980s. We'll remember them with deep respect and won't forget their programmes.



„aus allen Anzeigen-Ländern und deutschen Verfassungen, insbesondere der Preussischen, die sich auf das Schutzwesen und auf die Polizei beziehen.“

[illegible]

### Gesetze und Geldbußen

[illegible]

51



## Special moments to remember

- part 2 -

*When broadcasting for such a long period, there are always a number of remarkable things to remember.*

It's always hard to see your beloved transmitters being confiscated. And it certainly gave a sad and bad feeling knowing those two 10W transmitters built in in that wooden trunk changed hands in January 1983. But that's not the end of the story. Just to make sure you do understand the story: the wooden trunk in which both 807 transmitters were housed was owned by Frankie Fanatic's father. FF presented the Album Show during FRS Holland's first year. A couple of years after the raid, Frankie & his father watched a current affairs programme on Dutch television. The programme carried a report about illegal radio stations. Imagine their surprise when the FRS transmitters in the original wooden trunk appeared in front of them on television. And so the FRS people found out that the two confiscated 10W transmitters hadn't been destroyed after all, something which the Dutch RCD did in most cases with illegal transmitting equipment. It appeared the transmitters were stored in a basement in the headquarters of the Dutch RCD in Nederhorst den Berg, together with other transmitters also surviving their confiscation. It appeared that the Dutch RCD saved some of the most unique transmitters they had confiscated over the years. Not only the FRS ones in that wooden trunk but also FM transmitters hidden in a vacuum and a coffee maker. In the late 80s the FRS transmitters were again shown on Dutch television, once again in a current affairs programme. And it was in the Summer of 1994 that the RCD- a division of the Dutch PTT- organised a very special exhibition called "On the air, off the air". This exhibition was held in The Hague and covered the history of the RCD. Exhibits included several unique samples of confiscated transmitters. Joop ter Zee, Gerd & Peter Verbruggen visited that exhibition, now 17 years ago and one of the photos was used for the special

colourful 1994 14th Birthday QSL card. It was in July 1994 that Joop ter Zee & Peter Verbruggen went to De Hague where they would be meeting up with good old Gerd. Reason for the The Hague trip was the PTT exhibition 'On the air, off the air' which was all about illegal radio broadcasting equipment being confiscated by the RCD, a PTT division. They were hoping for that the former 10W transmitters were part of that exhibition and took the 200 km drive into the bargain. They were just too curious... January 16th 1983 FRS was raided and a wooden trunk containing the two 10W short wave transmitters had been confiscated.. As soon as they heard about the exhibition in The Hague Joop & Peter planned to make a trip finding out whether the wooden trunk was amongst the exhibits. Saturday July 23rd, a very hot day with 30+ temperatures the two FRS presenters drove to De Hague with large expectations and a large cool box full of tins with cola etc. They reached The Hague early in the afternoon and nearly 15 minutes later they met Gerd in the museum. The exhibition was on the second floor; a few minutes later they caught sight of a large brown trunk. It really seemed nothing had changed since 1983. Inside the trunk, two complete built-in 10W transmitters, each one having three valves: an ECC82, an 807 and an 6L6. Even the X-tals, modulation wire and SWR metre were inside. It seemed strange to face a piece of FRS nostalgia- no doubt THE piece of FRS nostalgia!- after a period of 11 years. Once this wooden trunk was the heart of the station as it was the transmitters inside which had largely contributed to FRS' success in their early years. 'With a power of only 10,000 milliwatts' ...remember that 1980 jingle. Of course there was much more stuff to be seen. The FRS trio discovered that Dutch pirates can be very inventive people when looking how some transmitters were hidden (for instance in a vacuum cleaner or a cookie tin). July 23rd 1994: it was a very special day, a memory which won't fade away. Since then all the equipment has been moved back to Nederhorst den Berg. We think it is still there..."

During the 1980s it was quite common for a number of free radio magazines to organize popularity polls. And FRS Holland scored a number of very good results. In the Nov. 1982 poll organised by the UK based FRS News magazine, FRS came on a 5th position behind Caroline SW, Radio Nova Dublin, Sunshine Dublin & BRI. A third place behind BRI & Apollo was the result of a SW poll from Airspec News another UK magazine in March 83. The German KDKC magazine organised polls in 1982 & 1983. In 1982 FRS was chosen as the #1 position ahead of Radio Wunderland, Radio Krypton, Radio Quadro, BRI & RECC. A year later in the June 1983 KDKC poll the station was again chosen as the no. 1 SW station leaving behind Radio Gerona, BRI, Radio Apollo, Radio Nolan & SWR.

The 1986 & 1987 Pin Magazine polls were the most successful ones in FRS' history. In both polls there were #1 positions in the categories "Best SW Station", "Best

Listener's Service" and "Best DX Show". Finally we mention the Spring of 1995. The reborn German magazine Radio News organised a poll and in the SW category FRS Holland was again voted as the no. 1 station ■

## THE 1983 RAID

By Peter Verbruggen

[continuation from page 11]

FRSH's Jan. 16th 1983 programmes should have been aired on two frequencies: 6250 & 7315. The 48 mb transmission had to be cancelled minutes before the broadcast was due to commence .... a rope broke and there was simply no time to fix the job in time. What was left was the 41 mb transmitter normally tuned to 7315 kHz/41 metres but that morning Peter forgot the 7315 X-tal and was forced to use a spare one being 7320. The 7315 X-tal was put in the transmitter at 12.00 hours CET when programme cassettes were changed. Last but not least: the evening before the raid two brand new 40W transmitters were successfully tested in Peter's studio on the attic of his mother's house. Those transmitters had been kept at a secret place for some months and were moved to Peter's house for the purpose of testing them out. It was pure coincidence they were at Peter's house during the day of the raid! The January 16th transmission produced 50 letters from 10 different countries. Two weeks after the raid FRS-Holland would be back with a special 90 minute broadcast informing the audience about the raid. FRSH was also indirectly . FRSH was also indirectly involved in the raids on Radio Delmare in March 1987 and the Radio New Wave raid on October 16th 1988, some 22 years ago ■

## Statistics & More

If we talk about the 30 years of FRS-Holland, all kind of figures can be found in the archives of the station. Here are just a few.

- So far just over 160 **regular Sunday** trms have been aired (tests and special broadcasts are not included); approximately **6,000 listener's letters** were received between 1980 and 2010;
- Before the collapse of the Berlin Wall most of those letters came from Western Germany and the GDR, nowadays most mail is coming from Germany;
- All these letters came from a total **40 countries** covering four continents. You want to know which countries?? Here we go: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belorussia, Brasil, Canada, Chili, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, the GDR, Germany, Ireland, India, Italy,

Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the USA, West Germany & Wales.

- And then the subject of **QSL cards**: the very first one was issued in August 1980 and since then 30 different cards with different logos have been issued including various special QSLs for X-Mas and Birthday purposes. Among the more unique QSLs is the one containing a colour photo of the two 10W FRS transmitters in that wooden trunk and the one which was issued on the occasion of FRS-Holland's 10th birthday back in 1990. Also quite unique are the millennium QSL, the one issued for the Joop ter Zee memorial back in October 2000 and the FRS Studio and FRS Transmitter Series.
- In October 1994 FRS Goes DX magazine published the results of a **comprehensive survey** covering the SW listening audience. The questions were all about the listeners' habits. At that time most listeners used a Sony ICF 2001D receiver and 67% an external antenna. Most listeners could be found in the 20-45 year age category. Some 60% of the SW free radio listeners tuned in each weekend, 48 metres was the most popular band. We were interested to know why were people tuning in to the SW free radio stations: 50% were trying to catch as many stations as possible while just over 35% listened to one station as long as possible. The conclusion was that zapping (aka band scanning) was the most common way of listening. And then the proof that the majority of listeners cared about the programme output: only 8% listened to QSO ing contrasting sharply with the 50% preferring informative programmes and 40% preferring musical shows. Luckily over 90% of the listeners responded to the stations: 49% now and then and 45% regularly ■

### Ontvangst tot in Brazilië

L. 17-1-83, Dinsdag 17.1.83

## Sterke zender in gepakt

ROERMOND - Van het oppakken van illegale zenders, ofwel radiopiraten, kijkt niemand vreemd meer op. Maar aan het eilandstene station dat de politie in samenwerking met de Radiocentrale dienst van de PTT zondagmiddag opvroedte zaten een paar merkwaardigheden die zelfs opsporingsambtenaren zouden aantreffen. Ten eerste bleek het een zender te zijn in het 7 MHz-gebied, d.w.z. de kortegolf, terwijl de meeste radio-piraten op de FM (104 MHz) werken. Ten

tweede kwam men bij de ontdekking tot de bevinding met een onbemand station te doen te hebben.

En ten derde was deze piraat heel wat anders: normaal was het voor hem - zo zei hij naderhand - tot in Engeland ontvangen te worden maar zelfs uit Italië, ja nog uit Brazilië had hij ontvangstvestigingen gekregen! Dit overigens hield de Nederlandse (maar ook Duitse) opsporingsmensen minder in de ban dan het feit dat de zender opereerde op golfhoog-

ten die voor het luchtvaartverkeer bestemd zijn. Makkelijk viel de opsporing hun overigens niet, want de "Free Radio Service Holland", zoals de piraat zich plecht te noemen, was wel al enige tijd actief, maar niet frequent, vaak maar eenmaal in de maand. Wel meestal op zondag.

Gisteren hadden de peilers geluk en konden zij het net rond de 7-MHz-amateur sluiten. De zender bleek te opereren vanuit een bosje op de ... maar toen de opsporingsmensen daar het struweel betraden vonden zij wel de zender, vrolijk spelend vanaf een bandje, maar niemand erbij. Zij bleven derhalve net zo lang posten tot de eigenaar van de apparatuur verscheen. Dat was de 25-jarige A.N. uit ... zijn voorkeur op de "vrije radiodienst" bleek popmuziek te zijn. Daarmee was het dan sinds gistermiddag bekeken: de politie maakte proces-verbaal op en nam de zender met aannorigheden in beslag.

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